Daily Report

Latin America

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Daily Report

Latin America

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U.S. Officials Cited on Haiti Multinational Force

FL1308112494 Kingston JBC Network in English 1130 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] The United States and Caricom [Caribbean Community] have agreed to coordinate efforts in restoring democracy to Haiti. Yesterday, tough-talking U.S. officials made it clear action to resolve the Haitian crisis is at hand. Mary Daley reports.

[Begin recording] [Daley] At the end of a two-day meeting of Caricom and United States officials in Jamaica, the two groups have reaffirmed their commitment to restoring democracy to the troubled Haitian nation. Foreign Affairs Minister Dr. Paul Robertson told journalists that 200 troops from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and Belize ("will enter) Haiti in the third stage of phase one of the operation. Phase one has three parts: invasion, pacification, and phasing out the military. Phase two is the United Nations mission of reconstruction. Three of the territories—Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, and the Bahamas—are still in consultation, but it is not known if they will participate. The U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch explains how the force will be introduced.

[Deutch] The introduction of the multinational force can occur in two different ways. The first is after the illegal de facto regime has departed from Haiti, or it can occur with resistance from that regime. There should be no question in anybody's mind that the multinational force is going to Haiti. Thank you.

[Daley] U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary John Deutch. Already plans are in place for training to begin on Roosevelt Roads in Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom and Argentina have agreed to assist with the training. The United States Chan scheduled the training) to ensure a minimum of casualties to Haitians and to the multinational forces. ("Experts) agree that engagement is a last resort, they say an alternative measure is to impose and enforce sanctions against Haiti. After leaving Jamaica, the team of officials will hold talks with the Government of the Dominican Republic with a view to enforcing the embargo and sealing the border. Three Jamaicans will be involved in the monitoring of the border.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott says the Caricom countries have put [word indistinct] of their own member states at the disposal of the international community in order to carry out UN Resolution 940.

[Talbott] Our hope is that the dictators in Haiti will get the message—specifically, that they will get the message that was delivered by Caricom today. That is our (?critical) hope from Washington and I am glad that that hope has been both shared and [words indistinct] by the actions taken [words indistinct].

[Daley] Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott. He says the officials hope that the credible threat of force will make the actual use of force unnecessary. Mary Daley reporting [words indistinct], (end recording)

U.S., Caribbean Move 'Briskly' Toward Haitian Invasion

FL1308191294 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1700 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] The United States and Caribbean nations said yesterday they were moving briskly toward a military invasion of Haiti and that a U.S.-led force would immediately begin training in Puerto Rico. Meanwhile, in Haiti, religious leaders yesterday mourned the murder of a Catholic priest shot dead Sunday at his home by suspected paramilitary gunmen.

More on Caricom Meeting on Haitian Invasion Preparations

FL1308211094 Castries HTS Caribvision Television in English 1947 GMT 12 Aug 94

[From the "Caribbean Evening News" program]

[Text] Your Time Is Up! That's the message sent to Haiti's military regime following two days of talks between Caricom [Caribbean Community] and American officials in Jamaica. Rohan Lewis reports.

[Begin recording] [Lewis] U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott made it clear: There's an increased sense of urgency in dealing with the Haitian crisis. Short of saying the main invasion will take place, the American delegation to the two-day meeting said the time for action has arrived.

[Talbott] There is a (?new) sense, very apparent in this meeting today, that the situation cannot continue very much longer.

[Lewis] Caricom has pledged its support to the operation following the invasion.

[Unidentified speaker] Staff officers from Caricom countries will soon join with their U.S. counterparts to finalize and coordinate arrangements related to their participation in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 940.

[Lewis] Training of the troops to participate in the intervention is to begin immediately in Puerto Rico. Jamaica's foreign minister, Dr. Paul Robertson, says there are two phases to restoring Haiti's elected government. Phase one involves the actual invasion. Following the invasion will be an attempt to pacify the country. This will culminate with the phasing out of the military operation and be handed over to a UN civilian mission. Dr. Robertson stressed that Caricom countries will not participate in the invasion.

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[Robertson] Caribbean forces will come in during phase one, but not in the initial invasion phase but in the peacekeeping phase.

[Lewis] Four Caricom countries—Jamaica, Barbados, Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago—will participate in the peacekeeping mission. Three others—Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, and Guyana—are still in the process of consultation.

The U.S. delegation is now in the Dominican Republic for talks with that country's government on strengthening sanctions and sealing the border with Haiti in a last-ditch effort to stave off the invasion. [Word indistinct] Jamaica has sent three military personnel to help the border patrol.

With the Haitian military continuing its defiance, it seems the region is destined for another mission to restore democracy. [end recording]

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Cuba

Government Denounces Increase in U.S. Radio, TV Broadcasts

PA2108214094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0759 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 31 Aug (PL)—Cuba today denounced an increase in recent radio and television broadcasts by the United States against the island and affirmed Cuban willingness to defend its sovereignty over the nation's frequencies.

A note published in today's issue of the newspaper GRANMA against television aggression states that the latest anti-Cuban television—which has remained invisible thanks to the effective interference of Cuban technical experts—has expanded its broadcasting schedule.

The ill-named Radio Marti, it adds, has tried to expand its options through the use of 24 shortwave and two medium-wave frequencies.

The Cuban Government has denounced the increase in radio and television attacks on our country and has stressed that as usual, it will make every effort to defend its sovereignty over the nation's frequencies and respond appropriately to these new expressions of the U.S. aggressive policy against Cuba, the text concludes.

Radio Cites Note Protesting Increased U.S. Broadcasts

PA2108221594 Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] Today's GRANMA includes a note from the Center Against Radio and Television Broadcast Aggression denouncing the United States for recently increasing its aggressive broadcasts to Cuba. The note points out that anti-Cuban television—which has remained invisible thanks to the effective interference of Cuban technical experts—has extended its broadcast hours. The note adds that the ill-named Radio Marti has tried to expand its broadcasts by using many frequencies. Commercial radios in south Florida that penetrate Cuba have adapted their programming to the present situation and are supporting the new U.S. policy design. The Cuban Government has denounced this increase in aggressive radio and television broadcasts and has stressed that, as always, it will make every effort to defend its sovereignty over the nation's frequencies and respond appropriately to these new expressions of the aggressive U.S. policy on Cuba.

Alarcon To Leave for U.S., Clinton Dinner With Author Noted

PA2108142094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 0727 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Javier Rodriguez]

[Text] Havana, 31 Aug (PL)—The Cuban delegation to the negotiations with the United States, which will begin next Thursday in New York, will depart today at midday from Havana.

The team, headed by Ricardo Alarcon, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, also includes Jose Arbesu, Carlos Fernandez de Cossio, Olga Miranda, and Wilquenia Fernandez.

The round of discussions, which could take several days, will address the current migration situation, which Cuba maintains was triggered by the U.S. economic and commercial blockade policy that has been in effect for more than three decades.

The meeting between delegations from the two countries has created great expectations among the international media. Evidence of this is the large number of news agency reports and commentaries and editorials recently carried by newspapers and television stations in each country, including the United States.

One important aspect of the Cuban stance, as expressed by President Fidel Castro, argues that only an overall negotiation of the dispute—including the embargo and the radio broadcast campaign against Cuba—will allow any progress toward normal relations between the two countries.

The U.S. Government has revealed up to now no interest in the talks on migration issues. It was learned, however, that there will be a meeting tomorrow at the White House of high-ranking officials in the Clinton administration to study "various options" for discussion.

Another report that sent waves of speculation in several directions was a dinner meeting yesterday between U.S. President William Clinton and Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Nobel Prize winner. The meeting took place at [illegible] home of U.S. writer William Styron on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The main catalyst for such speculation is the close relationship between the writer and the Cuban revolutionary process, which is what has given political significance to the dinner appointment with Clinton one day before talks with Cuba are to begin.

Faithful to their heritage of intransigence and aggressiveness, the most conservative circles of the Cuban community in Miami have already expressed their disapproval of the talks between Clinton and the author.

To complete this picture, several Latin American governments, including those of Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil, have expressed their support for the dialogue as a means to solve the differences between Cuba and the United States.

White House 'Silent' on Clinton's Talks With Author

PA2108234994 Havana Radio Reloj in Spanish 1700 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

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[Text] U.S. media have picked up on the dinner hosted by award-winning author William Styron for Gabriel Garcia Marquez, a Nobel Prize winner for literature from Colombia, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and Mexico's Carlos Fuentes. An adviser accompanying Clinton to the dinner said that the 29 August conversations were private. Meanwhile, the White House remains silent on the matter. Although the same spokesperson says the invitation was at Styron's initiative, observers note that Clinton does not attend gatherings without knowing who the guests are in advance. Reports point out that Garcia Marquez, who is also on vacation in [words indistinct] is close to the Cuban revolutionary process and was in Havana just recently. Styron admitted to reporters that Garcia Marquez and Clinton discussed Cuba during the informal meeting and that Clinton demonstrated great interest even though he did not say anything.

World Attention Focuses on Immigration Talks

PA1109022394 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1958 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 31 Aug (PL).— World attention continues to grow around the talks on immigration matters that Cuba and the United States will be conducting, a few hours from now, in the hopes of resolving the present bilateral crisis.

Academicians, the media, and the Cuban people in general have now joined the many foreign governments and prominent people who have expressed great hopes in the talks, without overlooking the existence of age-old problems for the normalization of relations between the United States and Cuba. These problems have been heightened in the past few weeks by the massive exodus of illegals to the United States. Havana views the immigration topic as a [words indistinct] since the core of the problem, the economic blockade imposed on the island for the past 30 years, is resolved.

Regarding this issue, on Tuesday, GRANMA, mouthpiece of the Communist Party of Cuba, underscored the words used by President Fidel Castro when he announced his country's willingness to begin the said negotiations and stressed that "simple immigration issues will not solve the problems."

Meanwhile, an editorial published in today's issue of EL PAIS, a Mexican newspaper, demands a decrease in the tensions between the two countries and adds that Washington has become aware of the risk, which have now become fact, of a massive immigration of illegals to the coasts of Florida.

Many Cubans approached by PRENSA LATINA have said that they hope the talks will yield positive results. Similar hopes were expressed by politicians in Brazil, Colombia, and Mexico. Others are worried that the talks will have a negative outcome.

Experts in Cuban-U.S. relations have described the composition of the Cuban delegation—made up of renowned specialists, among them Ricardo Alarcon, former president of the Cuban parliament [as received] and former foreign minister—as a sign of the seriousness and importance with which the Cuban Government is approaching the problem.

Meanwhile, the White House's goal is to stop the illegal flow of Cubans and promote a legal, safer, and more organized migration.

A lady who is looking forward to negotiations said, "We must now wait to see if this time the United States will do what it promises," in clear allusion to Washington's disregard for an immigration pact signed with Havana in 1984.

Altercation at Cuban Mission to United Nations Reported

PA1109023394 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0058 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Report by Marcos Castellon from Miami, from the "Evening Information Newscast"]

[Excerpts] The final details are being handled in New York for the meeting between a U.S. delegation and a Cuban delegation to discuss immigration issues. Anxieties and expectations are increasing here given the situation. It has been reported on a daily basis that a series of factors will be discussed in these talks—which have been held every so often since 1984. In other words, the discussion of immigration issues per se is nothing new. What makes the talks special is the level of participation for each side and the fact that they are occurring while rallies are staging Cuba. [passage omitted]

I would like to tell you something that happened yesterday at the Cuban mission to the United Nations in New York. A group of approximately 15 members of the so-called 30 November Group provoked an incident when they showed up the entrance to the mission, preventing the arrival and departure of people. During the demonstration—which was very well prepared because television cameras and journalists were already there—four Cuban officials arrived, and they got involved in an argument when they saw that they could not enter. It all ended in an altercation, a fistfight. Everyone exchanged blows, seven persons were arrested, including the four Cuban officials. It is also reported that 15 policemen sustained various injuries when they were pushed around—the television shows policemen on the ground. Three provocateurs, members of the counterrevolutionary group, are under arrest for disrupting public order.

Yesterday, I had the opportunity to interview Fernando Remirez, Cuba's representative to the United Nations, and I specifically asked him if he thought the incident would affect the talks—which are scheduled to begin in a few hours, meaning tomorrow, in New York. He assured me this would not happen, because this counterrevolutionary group from the northern area of New York and

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New Jersey carries out various demonstrations every Thursday, with the participation of three, four, 10 or 15 persons. They carry signs and shout things.

This is what happened, in case the news reaches you over there, so you know nothing major happened.

Alarcon on Immigration Talks, Illegal Departures

PA2108021794 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1800 GMT 21 Aug 94

[Report by Mario Munoz--passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Ricardo Alarcon, president of the Cuban Assembly, heads the delegation that will participate in the Cuban-U.S. immigration talks to be held in New York on 1 September. Alarcon was selected to head the delegation because of his experience in Cuban foreign policy matters and his participation in previous talks with the United States. A few minutes before departing for New York on 31 August, Alarcon described for the local press the probable issues that should be discussed during the meeting.

"I think the true problem, that is to say, the existence of an abnormal situation between the two countries should be discussed. This situation, which provokes conditions, and encourages illegal departures to the United States, involves the existence of a hostile policy against Cuba, which has persisted for the past 35 years. One of the main components of this policy is the economic embargo. Because the embargo has been tightened, hostility has continued, illegal departures have been encouraged, the Cuban situation has worsened, and the economic situation has deteriorated, pressure on the people to emigrate illegally naturally has increased. If the United States wants to correct this problem, the only thing they can and must do is to change this policy and end the embargo and hostility against Cuba. If this is not done, we could talk at length and partial measures could be taken, but the evidence and consequences of the problem they do not want to correct will persist."

Alarcon said that one of the causes of the mass emigration of Cubans who try to reach the United States illegally is Washington's failure to fulfill the immigration agreement signed in 1984.

"According to the agreement, the United States would grant an many as 20,000 immigrant visas every year [words indistinct]. In 10 years, however, the United States has granted barely half of the visas it should have granted in one year. As the result of this, the aggravation of the embargo and pressures, and the encouragement of illegality, many more people have emigrated illegally to the United States. Evidently, this is a situation the United States should try to change. For our part, we are willing to discuss it. Nevertheless, we insist that there will be no solution as long as the embargo against Cuba, which is the cause of the whole problem, persists."

In his remarks to the press, Alarcon commented on the U.S. Government's responsibility for the illegal departures of Cubans to the United States.

"For 35 years, the U.S. Government received all those who traveled illegally with no documents or visas. For 35 years, propaganda has praised provocations. This explains why traveling to the United States illegally has become normal for any person. In addition, the Cuban Adjustment Law provides for this possibility, and the United States puts this into practice this systematically. We are not making unwarranted accusations, but it is they who made this law. No one can accuse the United States of stimulating the illegal emigration of Dominicans or Mexicans. In this particular instance, the United States spends large amounts of money and makes great efforts. In the case of Cuba, however, they fabricated, encouraged, and developed this emigration."

Alarcon also referred himself to the Cuban Government's efforts to protect the lives of children and young people who are taken to the sea by their relatives in illegal departures without taking into consideration the probable fatal consequences.

"We have not taken any actions against these people once they are at sea. We have not taken any repressive measures that can endanger their lives, but instead have assisted hundreds of them, in the past few days, who might have had difficulties within the 12 miles of Cuban territorial waters. I think the fact that the previous obstacles we had raised against the departure of people has ended is our leading contribution to the safety of these trips."

GRANMA: Some U.S. Leaders, Media Taking Positive Stand

PA1509211094 Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1846 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Havana, 15 Sep (PL)--The Cuban newspaper GRANMA refers today that some of the opinions of U.S. media and even of politicians are having positive repercussions for the constructive Cuban position regarding the conflict with its southern neighbor.

In a commentary, the newspaper refers to the constructive actions by President Fidel Castro regarding the uneven and difficult situation the country has had to face in recent weeks. President Castro has shown the firmness and flexibility required by the circumstances.

The commentary especially quotes statements made by the Cuban leader during his most recent appearance on national television (last Wednesday), when he announced Cuba's willingness not to reject the idea of holding immigration negotiations, although he said that "simple immigration issues will not solve the problems."

As he said on that occasion: "We must get to the root of the problems, to a serious discussion of all the problems, but we do not believe we can refuse to discuss any topic

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That is not possible, and that is why we do not reject the idea of holding immigration talks.

CRAWFORD stated, however, that President Mitterrand's Cuban visit was not well received in Washington, and that the French proposal could not be more ambiguous, stating that the U.S. President ruled out any type of high-level dialogue with Cuba and insisted "the only conversation possible" is the type of immigration "discussions" according to the communiqué, which nevertheless began to be heard that have a more realistic view of the situation of the current Cuban, and of the world in which we must inevitably coexist.

After mentioning a few such opinions, the Cuban news paper said that obviously such expressions as "the only one acceptable for Cuba but are in fact urged to be validated and only allowed U.S. policies towards the island.

These opinions do not represent a majority in the Congress or in the House of Representatives, but they could be a fact, CRAWFORD concludes.

Article Blames U.S. for Crises in Caribbean

[illegible] (Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 1947 GMT 17 Jul 94)

[illegible] article by Cuba Vice Minister Roberto Robaina and Cuban Ambassador to Cuba "The Caribbean in Flames":

[illegible] Vice Minister of Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said a few days ago in Quito that the United States was waging what it had every reason the number of refugees in that country. This has been U.S. policy since the victory of the revolution. Drought-stricken Cuba is unable by means of its own resources to cope with the problems affecting Cuban with employment offers. Together with the high bourgeoisie and the aristocracy which created in Cuba hundreds of powerful individuals and politicians who profited from power and all kinds of former officials of the Batista dictatorship, the most repressive and corrupt dictatorship in the country, left the country. Among revolutionary justice. Most of them were received in the United States. A group of professionals also fled the country, including approximately 3,000 doctors--the most sensitive loss of the revolution. Many of them fled after having participated in what the United States offered them, and most with the certainty of soon returning to Cuba. The United States would intervene in the U.S. had done in Guatemala five years before, as it had done for a century and a half on the continent.

Since then, there has been a steady stream of illegal immigrants and visitors into Florida, where they are met with the long-awaited resident visa and a hero's welcome. This continued until the Mariel exodus (1980) of approximately 125,000 people, a misfortune for James Carter in the latter part of his administration.

Ronald Reagan and George Bush stepped up the aggression, tightened the blockade, and unleashed a terrorist campaign to destabilize the island psychological warfare, military harassment, threatening naval and air maneuvers near its coasts and in Guantanamo, a radio war through Radio Marti--created by Reagan--and other radio stations in Florida urging the people to rebellion, diplomatic measures, to topple the country. This continued with Bill Clinton.

In July 1994, the so-called "crisis of the rafters" emerged when over 40 Cubans forcibly entered the Venezuelan, Spanish, Italian and Swiss Embassies.

A few days [illegible] during the 26 July speech on the anniversary of the attack on Moncada Barracks, proposed that the European Community open an office in Havana to welcome those who wished to leave. He also proposed that the United States send boats to pick up those who felt persecuted. That formula of "legal" emigration was not accepted by anyone.

This was in fact in the collapse of the communist world and the Torricelli Law (especially named the Cuban Democracy Act) with which the United States wants to establish its jurisdiction over the globe to strangle the Cuban economy into losing competitiveness as internal. The law bans third countries, companies, and individuals from trading with Cuba and investing on the island. It also imposes sanctions, fines, and reprisals on those who fail to observe it. The European Economic Community, Great Britain, Canada, France, and representatives from the continent--not the Canadian Conservative--condemned this law for undermining the sovereignty of their countries, violating their principles of international law, free trade agreements, and the UN and OAS charters.

In the UN General Assembly the vast majority of the representatives of members voted against this illegal embargo which violates the human rights of the Cuban people. Last year the vote was 88 to 4 with 57 abstentions. Latin America--including Colombia--voted in favor (Argentina, Panama, and Nicaragua abstained while Paraguay voted against.) Nevertheless, the commentaries and magical final statements of the Ibero-American summit meetings make no mention of the law nor do they condemn the extraterritorial nature of the Torricelli bill, which encompasses all of them.

The illegal migration phenomenon is a continental issue and occurs more frequently in other countries than in Cuba. Such is the case of Mexicans, Central Americans, and citizens of Caribbean countries heading for the United States and Colombians moving into Venezuela and Ecuador. They are leaving to find what they cannot find in their own country: bread, work, shelter, and security. It is not a political exodus but an economic one, as in the Cuban flow. The flow of Haitians dramatically increased following the coup against Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Universal Racial Caribbean Social policy

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of repression and discrimination against Castro's supporters, and the hunger which set in following the U.S.-imposed embargo—approved by the United Nations—to pressure Gen. Castro. This meant more poverty for the continent's poorest nation. The United States does not want that exodus of people. They have MIDS. It says Bush sent them to Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba; and Bill Clinton, who had criticized the policy during his presidential campaign, is now doing the same.

If nothing else, the different treatment accorded to Cubans and Haitians highlights an incoherent U.S. foreign policy. Now Clinton has made them equal. Neither of the two can enter, and the Coast Guard fleet will take them all to Guantanamo, separately. To balance things, he punishes Fidel Castro. No more dollars to Cuba. He suspended the flow of money the Cuban community sends to their relatives on the island and reduced flights from Miami to Havana. They used to leave daily. These measures, however, are a double-edged sword. They also punish the powerful, extensive and well organized Cuban community, and that could have negative internal consequences for Castro. Fidel Castro once said that Cuba has been a domestic policy issued in the United States, not a foreign policy one. The largest share of the Cuban community resides in Florida, more than half a million of them. The state has the fourth largest number of electoral votes. The two parties, both of which fly anti-Castro flags, struggle for its support—votes and funds—for their campaigns.

John Hopkins University conducted a nation-wide public opinion poll among the community two years ago in many cities across the United States. Although the anti-Castro activists in Miami are the loudest, the poll showed that 75 percent of the total would like better relations with the island, which does not necessarily mean they agree with the Cuban Government. Today that community has said—has shouted—in more large demonstrations in Miami, that it disagrees with the degrading treatment of Cubans being sent to Guantanamo.

The Caribbean is in flames, and the United States is holding the torch: Haiti blockaded and threatened with an invasion ordered by Clinton—both measures approved by the UN—prepares to defend itself militarily. Guantanamo is a concentration camp for Haitians and Cubans, and the United States is trying to distribute them as disposable articles among Panama, Honduras, and a few Caribbean nations. Cuba, submerged in the worst crisis of its history, its economy choking under the Torricelli bill and three decades of economic embargo, is now threatened with new measures to worsen the crisis. There there is the United Nations, an organization created to bring peace but that is now declaring war. Nonintervention, respect for sovereignty, and the right to self-determination, elements forming the backbone of what could be international democracy, disappear into the shadows of a new form of dictatorship called intervention as a humanitarian act of the world community, led by the United States, which determines when and how it will be done. Latin America virtually opposes the invasion, but above this and above all else, the OAS and the continent remain silent.

Weather Reportedly Forces Refugees at Sea To Return 30 Aug

FL3108151794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in English 1700 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The United States and Cuba will begin talks tomorrow in New York in a bid to halt the flow of illegal Cubans to the United States. Yesterday, dozens of rafters set off from Cuban beaches to the United States but were turned back after the weather turned stormy again.

Secretariat Requirements for Cubans To Immigrate Noted

FL3108004294 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1930 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico's Foreign Relations Secretariat has confirmed that Cuban citizens with relatives in Mexico must meet eight requirements before being admitted into Mexico, including the guarantee that someone will take economic responsibility for them while they are in Mexico.

Interested Cubans can apply at the Mexican Consulate in Havana or can have their relatives in Mexico apply at the National Immigration Institute. It must be proved that either a first or second generation relationship—children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, or siblings—exists. It also must be proved that relatives living in Mexico hold Mexican citizenship or have held legal temporary or permanent residence for at least a year before the application date. Economic solvency must also be certified by a letter on earnings, to demonstrate sufficient means to [words redistinct] of the Cuban relatives.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat said that the status of Nonimmigrant Visitor Economically Dependent on Relatives could be extended beyond one year and would be issued to Cuban citizens who meet the above-mentioned requirements.

All applicants must hold an exit permit for foreign residency issued by the Cuban Government. If admitted, they will be able to take their spouses and underage children.

The Foreign Relations Secretariat adds that Mexicans with Cuban spouses will be allowed to apply for these spouses to immigrate after being married for one year. Fraudulent cases will be rejected.

Diplomatic sources in Havana told local press agencies [words redistinct] that although several hundred have shown interest in traveling to Mexico, so far a little over [word redistinct] meet immigration requirements.

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Roberto at Solidarity Meeting Says Cuba 'Not Alone'

PA3108000894 [Editorial Report] PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2229 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Mario Naranjo] [text]
[Text] Panama City, 31 Aug (PL)—Hundreds of Panamanians cheered for Cuba when Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said that the island is not alone because it has the solidarity and the love of millions of men and women throughout the world.

Robaina, who is in Panama City to attend tomorrow's swearing-in of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares, was the key speaker at the moving closing session of the first Solidarity with Cuba convention, which was held at the main hall of the Journalists Union of Panama in Panama City.

During his speech the Cuban leader said that his country has through moral and material resolves to endure any situation, despite how difficult it may be.

It is said that we are alone, Robaina said and added, but we have diplomatic relations with 160 countries and many friends throughout the world. "If [he] is being alone, I have never seen a more accompanied loneliness."

Robaina said that the illegal migration must be stopped by the courts that is promoting it.

The Cuban Government is not the one encouraging illegal departures from the island, the United States is encouraging them and, therefore, it should be my U.S. counterpart who should comment on this, Robaina stressed.

Robaina said that in the next few hours, talks on this issue will begin, however, for us, he added, the real issue is even more serious, the blockade.

The Cuban foreign minister firmly stated that dignity and sovereignty are not negotiable for the Cubans. We have not renounced, Robaina said, our capacity to decide for ourselves.

Amid applause and cheers for Cuba and its Revolution, Robaina said in conclusion: "All of [what] would be helpful to us, but you are bearers of something that cannot be blocked, ties of love and solidarity that nourish our souls to continue on."

Anti-Imperialist Tribunal on Aggression of U.S. Embargo

PA3108022294 [Havana PRENSA LATINA in Spanish 2154 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Havana, 31 Aug (PL)—The measures approved by the U.S. Government to deal with the mass illegal emigration of Cubans aggravates even further the embargo against Cuba and shows how unrealistic Washington's policy is, a non-governmental organization reported in Havana today.

The Anti-Imperialist Tribunal of Our America, TANA, headed by former Guatemalan Foreign Minister Guillermo Torriello, said the circle of embargo around the island intends to starve it and kill it by disease and satisfies the Cuban-born far-rightist sectors in the United States.

The illegal emigration to the United States is basically caused by the increasing embargo, yet the White House turns its back on this reality and insists on subverting the Cuban society to create conditions to end the Cuban social project, TANA said.

This situation takes place at a time when, despite extreme difficulties, the country has just started to shows signs of economic recovery and steps have been taken for positive communication between Cuba and the Cuban community residing in the United States, the organization added.

Washington's policy has started to provoke effects contrary to its own interests and the United States has shifted its treatment of Cubans, who are no longer regarded as "democracy living," with privileges granted by the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act, but are now being concentrated in the illegal base at Guantanamo, in the country's eastern tip.

Once again, President Clinton has been trapped by his inconsistent position and runs the risk of making a mistake in his assessment of the Cuban situation, as it happened to his predecessors at the White House, TANA warned.

Finally, TANA condemned the new aggressive escalation of the U.S. Government against the island and urged President Clinton to show willingness to find through negotiations the definitive solution to the old issues that have provoked the crisis.

Machado Briefed on Measures Taken Around Guantanamo Base

PA3008124194 [Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0400 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, reviewed the demonstrated firmness of the people of Guantanamo in the defense of the fatherland and the intelligent organizational measures taken in the face of the current situation.

Machado, a deputy to the National Assembly of the People's Government for Guantanamo, toured areas of socio-economic interest and learned of the efforts made to reinforce surveillance in the areas surrounding the naval base that United States maintains against Cuba's will.

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Havana Notes Repatriation of Civilians in Guantanamo

FL0409145794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Aug 96

[Text] Relatives of the U.S. soldiers at the naval base in Guantanamo are beginning to prepare for their return to the United States, according to an NBC report.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Civilians who reside on the military installations will leave for the United States by order of Washington. The measure seeks to create more space that would allow housing of the increasing flow of Cuban refugees that arrives in Guantanamo each day. Currently the base is housing 28,000 Cubans and Haitians, who fled from their countries and who are not admitted into the United States. Quarrels and drive-ups are beginning to emerge among them. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Williams, in charge of the operation for refugees, admitted that there is a growing anxiety and disgruntlement among the Haitians. Some of the 14,555 Haitians feel abandoned now that their number has stopped growing and they have to compete for world attention with more than 15,500 Cubans.

Meanwhile, in North Carolina, more than 130 soldiers left for Guantanamo on 28 August. Their mission is to provide security and humanitarian aid to the refugees that are concentrated at the base. This is one of the 30 units that will arrive at the military installations in the next few days. The soldiers have been warned that this mission could last anywhere from three to six months and that it will not be a easy mission. [end recording]

Sailors, Rafters Interviewed at Sea

FL2108071794 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Aug 96

["Radio Documentary" report by Demetrio Villaurrutia on the dedicated round-the-clock efforts of Cuban Border Guards" from the "Exclusive" program—recorded]

[Text] [Villaurrutia] It is dawn—August 1994—several Border Guard ships take to the sea. On the horizon, land dots blend with the hue of the sea. The ship moves forward. Almost five or six miles from our coasts, the crew spots the first group of the so-called rafters. [Some sounds] This signal represents aid.

[First sailor] Are you okay?

[Indistinct rafter's response]

[Second sailor] Do you want to come aboard?" [Pause] Are you going to continue afloat?"

[First sailor] Yeah, they want to keep going.

[Indistinct radio transmission]

[First sailor] Cuba. I have two here, have two of the you-know-why's not wanting to be rescued. Do you read?"

[Radio operator] Copy.

[Villaurrutia, over background music] In recent days the number of people attempting to leave Cuba has increased. Havana's northern shores, as well as other areas, have witnessed the illegal mass exodus of hundreds of Cubans attempting to reach the United States by whatever means available to them.

How long ago did you take to the sea?

[First rafter] Seventy-two hours.

[Villaurrutia] How far did you get?

[First rafter] About 20 miles out.

[Villaurrutia] Are you cold?

[First rafter] Yes, I am cold.

[Villaurrutia] How long were you at sea?

[Second rafter] Seventy-two hours.

[Villaurrutia] Aboard what?

[Second rafter] On a raft.

[Villaurrutia] Was it very difficult out there?

[Second rafter] You can imagine. Rowing! We did not have a motor or any other resources. You can imagine. That is what we did.

[Villaurrutia] Did you request on your own to... [fades into background music]

[Villaurrutia] Maneuvering at sea is not easy. The Border Guard ship struggles against inclement weather. Strong currents and the wind at times make the ship veer off. However, they remain steadfast night and day, confronting obstacles and offering aid to those at sea seeking help.

[Fidel Castro recording] To give them water and food if they are in a critical situation. That is to say, we have issued precise instructions on the cases of launches or small vessels that are unsafe for the trip.

Number 8. The activities in the struggle against drug trafficking must continue with the same vigor with which they have been carried out up to now.

Number 9. Any activities, concerted agreements, and attempts to try to leave Cuba by one's own means, and the conspiracies being plotted to achieve this end, should not be actively persecuted. There should no attempt to persecute any group or individual making such plans, unless of course they are military personnel or individuals who, through their desertion or treason, would considerably harm the country. I refer to people in the planning stages, not individuals already at sea.

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[Third sailor] We first ask them what they want to do. If they wish to continue travel and have no problems ahead, we give them whatever assistance we can--either medicines, food, or water. We give them whatever they need if they choose to continue on. That is their decision.

[Villaurrutia] Even if the sailors decide to continue to travel, do you give them supplies?

[Third sailor] Yes. We give them medicine, food, water, anything they need.

[Villaurrutia] Has this been the case lately?

[Third sailor] Yes. We see this almost everyday. What they request most is water. Water is the first thing they run out of. One immediately feels exhausted without water. Water is what they request the most.

[Villaurrutia] For example, this group--they were located over a large area, approximately 12 people including men, women, and children--was it very difficult to rescue these people?

[Third sailor] It was very difficult. They were very far from the coast. The rescue operation began around 0630 in this region between Santa Fe and Guantabo. We scouted the entire six or eight mile area, picking up all these people who are now aboard, with the aid of another ship that is still out there rescuing people.

[Villaurrutia] What do you think about this?

[Third sailor] The best. Very humane. This is the best that could be done.

[Fourth sailor] Wonderful. It was incredible. Not a single problem. On the contrary, they asked us: Do you want us to pick you up or are you going to continue ahead? No, we replied, we want to head back home. They were extremely nice.

[Third sailor] They do not have anyone to head back, or were ahead. No. No.

[Fourth sailor] On the contrary, they asked us: What are you going to do, return or continue ahead? We told them we wanted to head back.

[Third sailor] We called them.

[Fourth sailor] We called them over.

[Villaurrutia] You called them?

[Fourth sailor] Yes, we called them.

[Third sailor] Yes, I signaled them from afar.

[Fifth sailor] The storm was getting nastier.

[Fourth sailor] If I were to say otherwise, I would be lying.

[Sixth sailor] Let me tell you, we had to be aware at all. We were truly in a critical situation, really bad. I have to be sincere. Perhaps, one is lucky. I still thought we weren't going to make it.

[Villaurrutia] You will probably remember today as the day you were born again.

[Sixth sailor] More than that.

[Seventh sailor] Yes, not more than that, but 200 percent, because the storm was getting uglier. We were 20 miles out and the truth is that the waves were coming the raft. I told myself, the raft will not take this much longer. I know because I'm still a blacksmith. I was aware of the situation. It was really scary. You reach a point where all you want to do is get it over with. It really got rough.

[Eighth sailor] We signaled them to pick us up because the weather was bad and the waves were high.

[Villaurrutia] How long were you at sea?

[Eighth sailor] What day is today?

[Villaurrutia] Thursday.

[Eighth sailor] We left Wednesday morning at about 1400.

[Villaurrutia] How far did you go?

[Eighth sailor] Some 20 miles.

[Villaurrutia] How old are you?

[Eighth sailor] I am 24.

[Fourth sailor] For example, the weather is bad today. The raft was crashing against us when we jumped overboard. It is dangerous, but that doesn't matter to us. The important thing is to save the people.

[Villaurrutia] How old are you?

[Eighth sailor] I am 22.

[Villaurrutia] Are there many Border Guard ships in the area doing this type of rescue mission?

[Ninth sailor] Yes. Between Cabanas and Matanzas, every sector is covered by two ships, located between three and six miles, and six and 12 miles.

[Villaurrutia] Today, the weather is fairly bad. So far, you have rescued only a few. Three sailors were rescued a little while back. They did not care to say much to the press. However, I would like you to tell me about it. Did they signal you? Did you ask them to come ahead?

[Ninth sailor] Right. We were patrolling when I sighted the raft. Our mission is to check every raft and see if the people want help. If they accept, we take them back home.

[Villaurrutia] And in this case?

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[North radio] I asked them and they said they left yesterday. They had been at sea for 24 hours and had not made any progress. They wanted to return home.

[Villaurrutia] In the only rescue I was able to witness, I saw you all risk your lives because several of you had to jump into the sea. How did it go?

[North radio] The raft capsized as it was approaching the ship because the people onboard all gathered on one side. My sailors, my comrades saw the danger the rafters were in and jumped in. That is a common theme that the crew of any Border Guard ship would do anytime someone goes overboard and needs help. The sailors are more than willing to jump in and save a life, at the risk of their own.

[Villaurrutia] Dusk begins to unwind on us all across another August day. The number of Cubans rescued today surpasses 100. Among the rafters, diverse comments are heard.

[Villaurrutia] Why are you crying so?

[North radio] It was crazy of me to do this.

[Villaurrutia] How about you?

[North radio] One [relative] was leaving but another was staying behind. This is my home. It was crazy. My life is all set in Cuba. I have my things here. I am already retired. I have a television. I have everything I need. What I did was truly madness.

[North radio] We had no choice but to ask for help. The storm over us was something else.

[Villaurrutia] Were you ensured that nothing was going to happen to you, that the Border Guard was just going to help you?

[North radio] Of course. The Cuban Border Guard really rescues people. They are doing something good. They saved my life.

[First radio] Capt. I have two here, two of the you-know-who not wanting to be rescued. Do you copy?

[Navy Music]

[Villaurrutia] Night falls. Once more our Border Guard ships take to the sea. For these men, most very young, the work vigil continues. In Cuba, life goes on.

Roberto Robaina in Panama, Vows Accord With Brazil

FL1509182394 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Sep 94

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina arrived today in Panama to attend the inaugural ceremony of Ernesto Perez Balladares, president of the Republic of Panama on 1 September. Correspondent Rey Rodriguez reports from Panama.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Upon his arrival at the Tocumen International Airport, the Cuban Foreign Minister was greeted by his counterpart, Jose Raul Mulino. The head of Cuban diplomacy interrupted a tour through several South American countries to attend the inaugural ceremony. Several of the 14 delegations that will be present at the ceremony have also begun to arrive.

Upon his arrival in Panama, Robaina said that it was the intention of the two governments to strengthen bilateral relations. Robaina added that the current Panamanian government has expressed its desire to continue working together. As other personalities begin arriving, there is great expectation in Panama about the future of the new government. [end recording]

Before leaving Brazil, Robaina and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim signed a cooperation agreement for the fight against drug trafficking, as well as supplementary agreements on mining and biotechnology.

Robaina had an intense work schedule in Brazil, which included a meeting with President Itamar Franco, to whom he delivered a letter from Fidel.

[Begin Robaina recording] This completes a tour that began a few months ago through several countries of America and through other parts of the world. I believe it is important that we strengthen existing relations. Cuba is faced by difficult conditions and a gigantic campaign. I do not say that Cuba's point of view is shared by everyone, but I believe Cuba's point of view should be known. The interesting thing is not only what is said about Cuba, but what Cuba has to say. With that in mind, we have carried out a tour that included Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia, and Brazil. From here I will travel to Panama. [end recording]

Council of State Appoints New Ambassador to Yemen

FL1509012394 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Aug 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] The Council of State has appointed Comrade Hector Izquierdo Perez, director of the Foreign Relations Ministry's international press center, extraordinary and plenipotentiary Cuban ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

Delegation Confirmed To Attend ICPD Attendance

FL1509000894 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Sep 94

[From the "National Radio News"]

[Text] A Cuban delegation headed by Vilma Espin, president of the Federation of Cuban Women, will attend the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, from 5 to 13 September. The delegation will also include ministers and specialists on

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the issues up for debate. Lopez, a member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee, explained that the conference is aiming for an approved worldwide program, with the participation of all governments. She said that the agenda would include such topics as population growth and structure; the family—its functions, rights, composition, and structure; relations within the population; and sustainable economic growth. Lopez said that Cuba will also participate in the preliminary regional conference of Latin America and the Caribbean, which will take place in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in September. This conference will take place before the Fourth UN Women's World Conference.

U.S. Business Talks, Agreements With PRC Noted

FL2109062594 Havana Cubavision and Cuba Union Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Sep 94

[From the "NTV" newscast]

[Text] A delegation of 70 U.S. businessmen is visiting the PRC this week. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, who is leading the delegation, reported that the delegation has signed almost $3 billion in contracts with the PRC. Brown described the PRC as an emerging economic market with which U.S. businessmen want to deal. Brown said that exports had increased four times as fast as with any other country. The majority of the contracts signed were in the sphere of energy and telecommunications. Some of the U.S. businessmen visiting the PRC said that these investments will increase as soon as the delegations complete their visits to the cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Bahamas

Government Supports Security Council Resolution 940

FL2109144594 Nassau Bahamas Radio Network in English 1130 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] The Bahamas has a [word indistinct] high-level delegation in Jamaica, which is mapping out ways to restore deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power. Already a dozen states, including The Bahamas, have signalled their support to assist in the rebuilding of that Caribbean nation once democracy is restored. For details, here is Marion Albert.

[Begin recording] The cabinet office has advised that senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Safety and Transport, and from the Royal Bahamas Police and Defense Forces are attending Caricom consultation meetings in Kingston, Jamaica to discuss means by which the region might participate in United Nations-sponsored initiatives to restore democracy to Haiti. The Bahamas police support United Nations Security Council Resolution 940, which seeks to facilitate the early departure of the military regime from Haiti, the restoration of a democratically-elected government, and the establishment and maintenance of a secure, stable environment conducive to the peaceful and orderly [word indistinct] development of Haiti.

The Bahamas is convinced that the removal of the repressive military regime and the establishment of a stable economic environment in Haiti will reduce the numbers of Haitian nationals seeking to leave their homeland and hence, positively impact on the illegal immigrant problem in The Bahamas. Four Caricom states have joined the United States, the United Kingdom, and Argentina in [word indistinct] military participation in the MNF [multinational force], which may be required to remove the Haitian military leadership from their military-leadership role in Haiti.

Top member states of the United Nations, including The Bahamas and a number of Caricom states, have signalled their willingness to participate in the reconstruction of Haiti following the removal of the illegal military regime and the restoration of democratic government. [end recording]

Dominica

Prime Minister: If No Other Options, Invasion of Haiti Necessary

FL2109062594 Roseau DPA in Spanish 2223 GMT 11 Sep 94

[Text] Roseau (Dominica), 11 Sep (DPA)—Dominican Prime Minister Eugenia Charles today said that the international community cannot be accused of failing to do enough to find a peaceful solution to the Haitian crisis and recognized that a military action could be the only option for the time being.

The ruler of this English-speaking Caribbean nation added: "I have always believed that if one cannot win by holding talks, then one would have to resort to military force."

"This option would trigger a bloodshed and is not the best manner to solve the crisis, however, should there be no other options, then would have to use this extreme measure," she pointed out.

Charles' statements represent a reaction to reports that the United Nations is abandoning its efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis sparked by the Haitian military leaders' stubbornness.

The Caribbean Common Market (Caricom) and the United States yesterday reached a formal agreement to coordinate their efforts for an eventual military invasion of Haiti.

Four Caricom member nations—Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago—formed a small Caribbean regiment that will participate indirectly in the military invasion operation.

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The Dominican ruler underscored: "although we have pledged our help to be used whenever it is needed," Dominica, a country without an army, will not participate in active combat, saying that her country will try to aid Haiti during the post-invasion period, especially in such areas as police training.

Dominican Republic

Opposition Legislators Take Office, Demand Reform

FL1108134794 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2338 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Legislators from the opposition Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) were sworn in before a civil court judge today prior to assuming their duties, in the performance of which they will press for the convocation of a national assembly to reform the Constitution.

Legislator Ramon Alburquerque said the 16 senators and 57 deputies were sworn in before a civil court judge before taking on their duties "to fight for the changes demanded by the country."

The legislators had refused to accept their posts since 16 August, when the new authorities took over, to demand that President Joaquin Balaguer convene an assembly to reform the Dominican Constitution.

Amending the country's Constitution is part of the agreement reached by the Dominican Government and the opposition as a solution to the political crisis that emerged after the election results that led to Balaguer's reelection were challenged.

Alburquerque said the group of legislators intends to submit a bill seeking an overall salary increase for soldiers and policemen and that they would also press for the convocation of a national assembly to reform the Constitution.

The opposition legislators want new elections to be held within the next 15 months, as agreed by political leaders and President Balaguer in the Democracy Pact. They rejected the previous agreement that called for elections within two years.

The new elections were scheduled for 16 November 1995 but legislators from the ruling party and from the Dominican Liberation Party of the previous Congress scheduled the elections for 16 May 1996, with the new president to be sworn in three months later.

Balaguer agreed to amend the Dominican Constitution under the condition that the reform bill be drafted by independent jurists.

With no deadline set for drafting a reform bill, the president said the reforms must first be the object of open debates in which the various national sectors can participate if possible.

Balaguer also accepted the appointments of a new Central Electoral Board made up of "persons of well-known moral and intellectual attributes" who are not active in any political party.

Haiti

Federation Terms U.S. Refugee Policy 'Unprecedented Crime'

FL1108224994 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Federation of Reorganized Associations [Federation des Organisations Reorganisees (FAR)] has protested U.S. policy on Haitian refugees. The FAR accuses the United States of committing a grave crime by confining those Haitians who were fleeing the misery of their country to the base at Guantanamo, adding that it is angered by the sterile and [word redacted] U.S. Government maneuvers.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording, in Creole] It is an unprecedented crime for the United States to put over a million people in jail without food or drink but with a group of lions that devours them every day. It is an unprecedented crime for the United States to stop those fleeing misery and repression on the Haitian seas. It is an unprecedented crime when the United States brings over 15,000 Haitians who are fleeing death to Guantanamo Bay. [end recording]

Government Authorizes Departure of Prospective Exiles

FL1108175794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Charles David by Jacques Maurice in Port-au-Prince on 30 August—recorded]

[Text] The Haitian provisional government has finally authorized prospective exiles to leave the country. This was announced on 30 August by Haitian Foreign Minister Charles David, who said the Emmanuel government would do all it can so prospective exiles can leave the country via the Dominican border at the end of this week.

[Begin recording] [David] There have been official requests, first by a certain number of people, until now considered Haitian citizens, who are candidates for emigration because as if by chance, these citizens who claim to be, who pretend to be political refugees, walk freely around Port-au-Prince, with absolutely no problems. [sentence as heard] A certain number of settlements have been reached, a certain number of settlements should... well, the situation should be determined between now and the end of the week. Broadly, what can happen is that if these people really want to leave, we are going to let them leave through the border.

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[Maurice] What about the humanitarian fuel, the fuel that has been blocked?

[David] The humanitarian fuel was released this morning. You see, this is very good news. The humanitarian fuel has never been blocked. There were administrative problems. But finally, we have been able to reach quiet settlements with the United Nations Program for Development insofar as we never wanted to make this problem a political problem. It was a humanitarian problem, the humanitarian aspect having been separate from the political aspect. A number of settlements have been reached to allow transparency on the management plane so that there can be absolutely no political influence on either side. I personally say, well done. Regarding the rest, the last papers were signed this morning. I therefore suppose that as early as this afternoon, most public institutions and humanitarian organizations will have access to this fuel.

[Maurice] Finally, Mr. Minister, how are things with the foreigners' office?

[David] Well, the foreigners' office has been set up, but there was a delay on the housing plans because it was necessary to repair everything. If you wish, you can take a look when leaving. Normally this foreigners' office is fully operational. The directorate of the protocol met with other concerned ministries and I think—as I told you last time—the aim is to allow foreigners to have an easier daily life in this country. I think this has been well done. Maybe we will have other initiatives in the future. [end recording]

That is it, the Lamamouri government is striving to make life easier for the foreigners living in Haiti. We have learned from a source close to the provisional government led by Judge Ernest Jonassaint that an interministerial delegation went to the Haitian-Dominican border this weekend. This mission was aimed at checking the situation of foreigners who wanted to enter the country, who are stuck in Malpasse.

Aristide-Cited Announces Withdrawal of Goodwill Mission

FL1109135094 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1047 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The UN secretary general on 30 August officially announced the withdrawal of his goodwill mission to Haiti. He made the announcement to the Security Council in New York.

The mission failed, according to the UN secretary general, due to the fact that the Haitian military did not answer an invitation to meet a UN diplomat in Santo Domingo to find a peaceful solution to the Haitian crisis. The threats of military intervention have again been raised following the failure of this preparatory mission for new negotiations.

The UN secretary general turns to the United States for application of Security Council Resolution 940, authorizing an armed invasion of Haiti. The group that receives the mandate to intervene in Haiti must make its own decision, Butros Butros-Ghali stated on 30 August.

He thus confirmed the failure of this preparatory mission that he had sent to the Dominican Republic to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. The mission did not succeed and this purely personal initiative will not be pursued, unless the UN secretary receives a mandate from the Security Council or if a major change occurs in Haiti, Butros-Ghali said. When asked whether the next step in the Haitian crisis could be a military intervention led by the United States, Butros Butros-Ghali answered: I do not know.

Diplomat Denies Colonel Prudhomme in Dominican Republic

FL1108123794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 2330 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] A high-ranking Haitian diplomat on 30 August denied that Colonel Ernest Prudhomme was in the Dominican Republic. The high official said that the officer attended a government meeting in Haiti on 29 August and described reports of Col. Prudhomme's participation in any military delegation as unfounded. It was rumored in Port-au-Prince that [pauses] A reliable source had told us that Col. Prudhomme was part of a delegation that met UN officials in the Dominican Republic last weekend.

Interior Minister Opens Inquiry on Vincent Assassination

FL1108172094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1630 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The Ministry of the Interior and National Defense of the provisional government has opened a quick inquiry to shed some light on the assassination of Father Jean-Marie Vincent, which has already given rise to numerous reactions from everywhere since the beginning of the week. The head of the Anti-Gang Service pointed out that they have already made considerable progress in the inquiry on the matter and that everybody will soon know the results.

It should be recalled that the U.S. Embassy had called for an immediate inquiry into that crime. In a communique quoted by AFP, the Embassy says that crime reflects the sad and tragic state of repression and violence that unfortunately characterizes life in Haiti nowadays, and represents the most recent illustration of the brutality of the de facto regime of the Army and its partisans.

Movement Urges Jonassaint To Initiate Electoral Process

FL1108170994 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Hubert de Ronceray, Mobilization for National Development [MDN] leader, has repeated his opposition

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to military intervention in Haiti to solve the crisis. De Ronceray says that democracy cannot be implemented by force:

[Begin recording] [De Ronceray] Intervention never solved anyone's economic, social, or political problems. Armed force has never been the answer to man's problems. If the United States and the world community still consider intervention the path of choice to democracy, then democracy is no longer what it used to be. Democracy then means failure, the formula for suicide. Clinton's definition of democracy is catastrophic.

[Unidentified correspondent] What can be done now to avoid intervention?

[De Ronceray] Haitians must put their own house in order to avoid intervention. Problems cannot be solved from outside. The power of big industrialized and overarmed nations will not solve the Haitian crisis. Haiti must take responsibility and assert itself and act so that the outside world admits that we have a personality, dignity, a culture and that we have rights that must be respected. [end recording]

The MDN leader also called on President Jonassaint to initiate the electoral process. De Ronceray thinks that the current government should not give in to international pressure:

[Begin de Ronceray recording] The MDN asks President Jonassaint to continue to assert himself, as he has started to do. We also ask him to issue the electoral decree as soon as possible so that the country can finally choose new leaders, new representatives who can lead the state's institutions and rebuild its future. [end recording]

U.S. Warship Near Cap-Haitien; Invasion Believed 'Imminent'

PA0109082794 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2347 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Port-au-Prince, 31 Aug (EFE)—A U.S. warship today was spotted less than one mile off Cap-Haitien Port, 256 kilometers north of Port-au-Prince, according to port residents.

According to reports by a Cap Haitien radio station, the warship requested the authorization of those in charge of the port to dock at the port, but port authorities rejected the request.

As for the reason why the U.S. Navy warship was in Haitian waters, the unidentified ship captain told those in charge of the port he had an appointment to purchase seafood from fishermen.

Meanwhile, a warplane flew over Cap Haitien airspace for two hours this morning, according to eyewitness reports. Port-au-Price residents also reported they heard a plane at a very high altitude, but they could not confirm whether it was a U.S. Air Force plane.

Residents of the Haitian capital had previously told EFE that they heard planes overflying at low altitude during the night.

Claudel Josaphat, northern department army commander, told journalists the presence of the U.S. warship is a provocation and violates Haitian sovereignty.

A source close to the government who asked to remain anonymous told EFE that the presence of the boat and plane frightened people.

However, according to a report regarded as contradictory, a Cap Haitien radio station correspondent reported that a group of civilians went to the pier to stage a protest against a possible U.S. intervention.

According to what EFE was able to confirm at Port-au-Prince streets, many Haitians questioned said they have the impression the invasion "is imminent."

In the meantime, the Haitian Army continues to train groups of civilians in several areas of the capital and the countryside. Despite rumors of a possible U.S. invasion, military authorities are not giving the impression they are concerned. [passage omitted]

Government Authorizes Sale of Humanitarian Fuel

PA0109082294 Paris AFP in Spanish 0330 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Aug 31 (AFP)—The provisional government of Haitian President Emile Jonassaint (not recognized internationally) authorized this Wednesday the sale of humanitarian fuel, which had been sealed for a month.

New Zealander Ross Mountain, the representative of the UN Development Program as well as a member of the committee to obtain the humanitarian fuel in Haiti, expressed his "satisfaction" with the decision.

This fuel, donated by the European Union, has to be used to further humanitarian activities by approximately 300 Haitian private and public organizations, as well as by foreign nongovernmental organizations that work in the health sector or in the distribution of drinking water.

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EZLN Demands Resignation of PRI Governor-Elect

PA3108213494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1349 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] San Cristobal de las Casas, Mexico, 31 Aug (NOTIMEX)---An armed group has demanded the resignation of the governor-elect of the southern Mexican state of Chiapas after stating that this victory was a result of fraud in the 21 August elections.

The resignation demand is expressed in a document that the so-called Zapatist National Liberation Army (EZLN) addressed to Eduardo Robledo Rincon of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) on 28 August.

The EZLN took up arms on 1 January to demand Indian rights but allowed elections to be held in areas under its control, where there has been a truce since mid-January.

During the 21 August elections, Chiapas held gubernatorial and mayoral elections as well as those for president of Mexico, deputies, and federal senators.

The EZLN told Robledo that by usurping his illegitimate victory "you will upset these lands a bloodbath," given that the ranchers and merchants are forming paramilitary groups in Tuxtla Gutierrez, the state capital.

It indicated that the resignation would be congruent with Robledo's statement in which he included some of the EZLN's demands.

In another communique dated 23 August and addressed to three national and local media, the EZLN calls on reporters to verify the alleged paramilitary training received by displaced persons on a Tuxtla Gutierrez farm.

On 28 August, the Federal Electoral Institute's municipal office and the Electoral Subcommission in the area of conflict in Chiapas labeled the federal and state elections held in that region as clean and aboveboard.

Cuban Ambassador Calls Immigration Dialogue 'Positive Step'

PA3108134794 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 31 Aug 94

[From the "24 Hours" newscast]

[Text] Abelardo Curviel, Cuban ambassador to Mexico, has described this Wednesday's start of the U.S.-Cuban dialogue on immigration as an important, positive step.

[Begin Curviel recording] We hope an atmosphere of understanding and prudence in U.S.-Cuban relations is created. [end recording]

Interviewed at the Cuban Embassy, Curviel said we can be neither too optimistic or too pessimistic.

[Begin Curviel recording] This situation that Cuba and the United States are experiencing these days is much more than a mere immigration problem. I believe we must seek deep, definitive solutions. [end recording]

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Manuel Tello said that the Mexican Government is pleased to hear of the U.S. and Cuban decision to hold a dialogue on immigration.

[Begin Tello recording] We are pleased to hear this, and we hope the dialogue will reduce the tension between the U.S. and Cuban Governments. [end recording]

Navy Modernizes Fleet, Armaments, Aircraft

PA2608221094 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 10

[Report by Jorge Reyes Estrada]

[Text] The Mexican Navy has modernized its most important areas, mainly the naval force, armaments, and aircraft, in order to improve its offensive capability, optimize patrols of the Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean coast, and safeguard national sovereignty.

In addition, as part of the modernization, naval areas and sectors have been created, ships built, ships purchased, and some ships overhauled. New personal armaments and land and aerial equipment have been acquired. Additional houses, hospitals, and schools have been built.

Without these improvements, national security and security of members of the Mexican Navy would be at risk, according to the document entitled "Achievements of the Secretariat of the Navy." The Navy received marked support from President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, during the current administration.

An important percentage of navigational and war equipment was modernized. The destroyers Blas Godinez and Netzahualcoyotl were outfitted with guns that fire 220 rounds a minute and with peripheral detection and navigation equipment.

The frigate Comodoro Manuel Azueta was outfitted with an Otto Melara gun that fires 120 rounds a minute and with a system of electro-optical range-finding and peripheral equipment. The destroyers Cuitlahuac and Miguel Hidalgo had their anti-aircraft defense fire controls modernized.

Likewise, 10 Arteaga-class patrol boats were outfitted with machine guns, and four Isla-class patrol boats and 10 Piranha-type speedboats were outfitted with grenade launchers.

The fleet overhaul was done in the Navy Secretariat's own shipyards, which had its own equipment modernized to provide better service, according to the study of the current administration's achievements.

Two former U.S. Navy frigates of the Nicolas Bravo class, which were outfitted with 106 components, have

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were acquired. They are being outfitted with complete warfare equipment for antisubmarine, air, and diversionary operations. They are also being outfitted with a landing strip and a powerful long-range gun.

In addition, three Cabo-class and two Punta-class patrol boats were acquired from the United States and will be used for coastal patrols. Likewise, 10 aluminum panga craft were obtained, which are intended basically to push boats ready to rescue people and in strong currents and in areas closely to maneuvering at close quarters.

The Mexican Navy also purchased 12 hydroplanes for use in estuaries, rivers, lakes, and lagoons. For the first time, transportation units will have landing craft. For personnel safety reasons, all surface craft and naval establishments were supplied with lifesavers, life jackets, inflatable boats, motor pumps, electric pumps for use in bailing and for lighting, boots, thermal clothing, and gas masks.

In naval aviation, the document lists the construction of two Cessna-type airplanes and the acquisition of 11 twin-engine planes and eight single-engine turbo-prop Rockwell aircraft. The eight were outfitted with machine guns and rocket launchers, as were the Cessna-type carriers.

Naval aviation forces are systematically outfitted with attack and support armaments. In addition, their pilots receive combat training. Armaments upstream for these vessels were purchased.

Eight helicopter gunships were also obtained, as were 11 Bell-type helicopters. Navy airplanes were 100-percent modernized, as were 23 turbines. A further 15 helicopters were procured.

For training purposes, a state-of-the-art flight simulator—the only one in Latin America—was installed in the Navy Secretariat. In addition, a test station turbine repair shop was built in Veracruz.

Government Approves Chemical Weapons Agreement

PA1508012494 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2204 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Aug (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government approved today the Prohibition Agreement on the Development, Production, Warehousing, and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction, which was signed in Paris on 13 January 1993, it was reported here.

The Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat stated Mexico is the first nation in the Americas to exhibit its total support for the goals sought in this agreement.

The Secretariat added that the approval is the result of Mexico's traditional policy "of favoring general and total disarmament under strict international control."

This agreement is the result of almost 20 years of negotiations at the Disarmament Conference in Geneva. In this conference, an entire category of weapons of mass destruction has been eliminated, and there is a strict framework for a system of international verification.

The mechanism is part of the first multinational agreement on negotiated disarmament that provides, since its beginning, for a verification method.

Through this verification method, the world community agrees to routine inspections and international inspections stemming from charges that may be made at any time, in any place, and the community cannot refuse these inspections.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat stated in a communique that this new system of verification will be overseen by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the headquarters of which will be set up in The Hague, the administrative capital of the Netherlands.

The Secretariat also states the agreement could be effective as of 13 January 1995, as long as the 65 approvals are achieved. The Secretariat stated that in addition to Mexico, the agreement had been approved by Albania, Germany, Australia, Bulgaria, the Cook Islands, Spain, Fiji, the Maldives, Mauritius, Norway, the Seychelles, and Sweden.

Agriculture Secretary on Updated Judicial Framework

PA1708001294 Mexico City CVM/EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 11

[Text] The coming administration will have an updated judicial framework in keeping with the country's economic and social development needs, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, agriculture and water resources secretary, said yesterday at the opening of the Second National Meeting of Judicial Delegates of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH).

He added an entire and updated legislation has been drafted in keeping with the country's current historic situation. "The drafting will facilitate the takeoff of agricultural, livestock and lumber activities in a harmonious and legal manner," he said.

Hank Gonzalez said President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has complied with all the support programs for the agricultural sector, such as reorganizing new lots for irrigation farming and developing infrastructure.

Before 70 judicial delegates of the SARH and the National Water Commission, Hank Gonzalez said the constitutional reform of Article 27 and the Laws on National Waters, Agriculture, Forest 4s and Animal Health, among others, compose a package of judicial norms that constitute the basis of rural development.

Hank Gonzalez urged public employees in the judicial area to redouble their efforts so as to continue on the path that leads to the achievement of the basic goals: to produce more and better products.

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SARH Judicial Director Guillermo Colin Sanchez said there is a absolute respect for the law and truth in each aspect of the organization.

The SARH will give to rural producers technical assistance on the accurate interpretation of the laws that regulate the development of the agricultural-livestock and lumber sectors, and SARH will better apply these laws with justice and in keeping with the law, he concluded.

U.N., Carter Center Studies Contrasted

[NC 031724] Mexico City *LA JORNADA* in Spanish 17 Aug 94 p 10

[Commentary by Sergio Aguayo Quezada, president of the Mexican Human Rights Academy: "The UN and the Carter Center"]

[Text] Foreigners interested in Mexico are obsessed by this one question: Do the conditions exist so that there can be confidence in next Sunday's election results?

Reports offering an answer to this question are proliferating, and generally they are receiving at times undeserved attention. I will comment on two of these reports because they illustrate the two dominant schools of thought.

The first document is the "Analysis of the Mexican Electoral System," dated 20 July, that three UN experts (Juan Ignacio Garcia, Cecilio Ortiz Blanco, and Luis Camilo Osorio) have drafted. The second is the report of the Carter Center entitled "Elections in Mexico," dated 1 August and drafted by Vikram Chand and Jennifer McCoy, among others.

The Technical Team for Electoral Assistance that the UN sent (ETONU/MEX) has unquestionably made contributions to Mexico's electoral process. One of them, however, is not the report by the specialists who came to Mexico, because unfortunately it reflects only the opinion of the three aforementioned specialists, not the international organization's, much less that of the other members of ETONU/MEX.

The UN experts have a very high opinion of Mexico's electoral system. Their conclusion is that the "structure of the electoral system offers the possibility of free, fair elections." The underlying problem with this diagnosis, which many foreigners and Mexicans share, is that it rests on a confusion between good intentions and the real world.

One of the UN experts' main arguments is the "passing over by ordinary citizens of the administrative bodies in charge of monitoring the electoral process." In this way, they say, Mexico is moving from "a situation in which the political parties hold absolute power in the electoral bodies charged with organizing electoral processes to a citizen takeover of these bodies, mainly at the administrative levels."

This assertion contains two fundamental mistakes. The first is that political parties were not the sole actors in control of the elections. One party and one government were. The second is that a process that has only just begun is being regarded as completed. I will explain by quoting the pages from the Carter Center, which is much more accurate in its judgments and much better documented.

The specialists at the Carter Center indicate that the citizen councillors were appointed "two months before the elections, which has restricted their impact to the latter phase of the electoral process." It should be added that major constraints were placed on the councillors: they cannot call meetings of the General Council or place items on its agenda. The creation of this post is quite salutary, but we need to give it time to settle in and grow stronger.

The Carter Center makes another fundamental qualification when it says that the "presence of the citizen councillors at the top echelons of the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) does not guarantee a transformation of the entire electoral apparatus." The retention of many IFE officials is a real problem that must not be downplayed, because even though a revolution is in the works at the top, it has still not filtered down to the rest of the IFE, where the same officials as before remain in power, and though they might be as professional as one would want, they have still not demonstrated their impartiality.

The UN and the Carter Center also disagree about the mass media. The UN acknowledges the bias of TV newscasts, clarifying that although this was not "absolutely verified as a fact by the members of this mission, it does introduce a degree of unfairness into the process." It then lingers in confusion in the next sentence by adding that "in the moments studied, it seemed that one of the country's TV stations offered free time on equal terms to the political parties, which helps solve the problem."

The people from the Carter Center still had doubts, and correctly so because the problem was not resolved; it got worse. A study by the Civic Alliance that was made public yesterday shows that the level playing field achieved during July was reversed in the first half of August as Televisa again boosted the PRI candidate, and in a major way.

When the Civic Alliance made public its report on the causes of the bias, there was a positive reaction from the General Council of the IFE and from the president of the republic, who made public appeals to the monopoly. Televisa was better behaved for about a month, but the fact that it lapsed back into slanted reporting shows how unconcerned it is about inequity in the campaign, how the group in power has seemingly decided to win the elections at any cost, and how fragile the electoral reforms are.

For this reason and others, I find the report of the UN experts and its optimistic conclusion wanting. The

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Carter Center's caution is more salutary. "We think," the center says, "that there has been substantial progress in creating conditions for free and fair elections. Nevertheless, the fact that almost half of the voters still mistrust the electoral process raises doubts that the election will be a momentous one." In other words, the election could be technically clean but may be insufficient to meet the country's needs.

Which of the two reports is of more use to Mexico? The moralistic and well-intentioned yet unfounded optimism of the UN specialists? Or the realism of the Carter Center, which acknowledges the gains but points out the problems?

I prefer the second perspective. Given many Mexicans' fascination with international opinion, we should take not hundreds of visitors how important it is for them to include their opinions about what is happening in Mexico (as the specialists from the Carter Center did).

One thing they must understand is that our distrust is not genetic, rather it stems from a regrettable fact: with few exceptions, none of the competitive elections that the group in power has organized has been fair. Let us hope that this one is different. Many of us do wish. But it does not seem sensible for foreigners to write this group a blank check before it shows its devotion to democracy with actions. Otherwise, they run the risk of making a mistake and eroding what they have come to defend.

Roundup of Economic Developments

PA2308211594

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on economic developments monitored through 29 August.

An article by Gabriela Aguilar says "Mexico leads Latin American trades in placement of Eurobonds." She reports on a JP Morgan Stockbrokers study that covers from 1991 through the first semester of 1994, noting that "in almost four years, only 16 Mexican firms have issued Eurobonds for $6,180 million in investment that amounts to more than $100 million." The report adds that Mexico represents 41 percent of the total amount of Eurobonds placed in Latin America. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 15 Aug 94 p 14)

A report by Marcos Chavez M. indicates that "commercial banks have suffered systematic deterioration due to economic instability in the country and structural limitations within the system itself." Chavez cites information obtained from the Banco de Mexico and the National Banking Commission in revealing that the "banking sector's real revenues fell significantly between 1989 and 1993 from 26 to 14 percent." The report also notes that bank credits to productive sectors dropped from 32 to 24 percent during the same period. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 15 Aug 94 p 4)

A report by Ricardo Vazquez states that "for the first time in its history, the amount of government bonds in the hands of investors has dropped in comparison to the numbers in circulation as of last year's close." According to an assessment by EL FINANCIERO, "through the last week in July there was a nominal contraction of 0.83 percent. Once the effects of inflation were deducted, the real drop was estimated at 4.7 percent." (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO [GNAL2000 Supplement] in Spanish 15 Aug 94 p 11A)

Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) has reported that its "crude oil production averaged 2.697 million barrels a day during the first six months of the year, of which 49.1 percent was exported and the rest was used to cover domestic demand." (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Aug 94 p 38)

The Mexican Social Security Institute, the National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Informatics, and the Labor and Social Welfare Secretariat have reported that the slow economic growth experienced by the country between June 1993 and June 1994 has prompted the dismissal of at least 179,000 workers from the formal sector, who have since been unable to find new jobs. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 17 Aug 94 pp 6A, 8A)

According to a 16 August report published Mexico City, the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat (SHCP) reported here today that Mexico's GNP increased 2.2 percent in real terms during the first semester of this year in comparison to the same period in 1993." The government office added that primary activities, such as agriculture, cattle breeding, forestry, and fisheries increased 5.1 percent, industrial sector activities increased 2.3 percent, the service sector 2 percent, the financial sector 4.2 percent, and commerce 0.6 percent. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2337 GMT 16 Aug 94)

The SHCP has submitted its regular report on the year's first semester economic situation, public finances, and the debt to the Chamber of Deputies. The deputies were informed that the government has a surplus of 5,425 billion new pesos, the budget income increased 3.1 percent, controlled government spending increased 11.4 percent, physical investments increased 27.6 percent, and resources assigned to social development grew by 14,668 billion new pesos, which is 53.4 percent of the scheduled expenses. The SHCP added that the total foreign and domestic debt, consolidated in the Banco de Mexico, increased to 22.4 percent of the GNP, which means that it has decreased 0.05 points over the first three months of the year. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 16 Aug 94 p 4)

Pedro Noyola, director of foreign trade in the Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat, has reported that Mexico attracted $7.3 billion in foreign investment in the first semester of 1994. This is 34 percent more than what it obtained during the same period last year. (Mexico City LA JORNADA in Spanish 16 Aug 94 p 47)

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A report by Lucia Dominville indicates that U.S. and Mexican organizations have filed charges over labor violations of NAFTA with the National Labor Issues Offices (NOW). Pharis Harvey, president of International Labor Rights Education and Research Fund, is charging the Mexican Government has not complied with its agreement to strengthen union freedoms. The American Friends Service Committee, the Coalition for Justice in Assembly Plants, and the Mexican Democratic Lawyers Association are demanding that the case of the Sony Corporation factory in Nuevo Laredo be clarified. It has been charged that Sony management pressured their Nuevo Laredo workers to vote for the reelection of a union leader and fired workers who refused to do so. NOW has to study the charges and issue a ruling. [Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 16 Aug 94 p 18]

An economic analysis prepared by Consultores Internacionales indicates that with all the strategic alliances in the private sector and the deconcentration of exports, the principal effect of NAFTA has been to "displace domestic products." The ultimate repercussion of which will be "negative effects on the living of workers." The report further indicates that at least 102,000 workers in the formal sector are out of a job. [Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Aug 94 p 18]

The Secretary of Finance and Public Credit reported that during this year's second quarter the GDP grew 3.8 percent, as opposed to 0.3 percent in the first quarter, totaling 2.2 percent for the first six months of 1994. It was also reported that during the first six months of the year primary activities such as farming, cattle raising, and fishing registered 5.1 percent growth; the industrial sector, particularly construction and generation of electricity, grew 2.3 percent; and service sector, transportation, communications, and financial services, grew 2.0 percent. [Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 17 Aug 94 p 24]

The Commerce and Industrial Development Secretariat has reported that from January to July more than $8 billion were registered in foreign investment, indicating that the United States is the largest foreign investor. [Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 0430 GMT 18 Aug 94]

During a meeting on the Stability, Competitiveness, and Employment Pact, representatives of the private sector agreed that all indicators are pointing toward the recovery of economic growth. Nevertheless, all underlined that there is still a ways to go for the growth of micro and small industries with regard to the generation of jobs, hikes in salaries, and the reactivation of the domestic market is still pending. [Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 19 Aug 94 p 25]

Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) issued a communique indicating that during the first six months of 1994, it had a primary surplus of $1 billion, that is 31.7 percent higher than in the same period in 1993. According to a 20 August report datelined Mexico City, Pemex said that this was due to greater revenues from domestic sales and less expenses in operations and investment. Total revenues for Pemex in that period totalled $13.2 billion, that is a 3.7 percent increase over the same period last year. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0914 GMT 20 Aug 94]

The SHCP reported today that Mexico's trade balance in the first six months of 1994 registered at $8.859 billion deficit. During this period, exports grew 16.6 percent and imports 18.9 percent in comparison to the same period in 1993. Meanwhile petroleum exports decreased 11.2 percent due to weak prices, although revenues from the sale of petroleum grew 10.5 percent. [Madrid EFE in Spanish 1628 GMT 20 Aug 94]

The SHCP reported that during the first six months of 1994 the Contingency Fund rose to 10.2 billion new pesos, that is 32 million new pesos more than in the same period in 1993, according to a 20 August report datelined Mexico City. Disbursements in this period totaled 718 million new pesos, of which 90 percent was earmarked to pay the public debt. It was indicated that since the creation of this fund, all its income comes from the privatization process. [Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 22 Aug 94 p 28]

A private sector report indicates that the 2.2 growth in GDP in the first six months is due mainly to agricultural products, given the significant harvests of cereals and fruits and vegetables. This is the result of favorable climate and the change to more productive crops like cotton, that had a surprising 700 percent growth in this period. [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 22 Aug 94 p 10]

The country's crude oil exports experienced a 1.3 percent annual increase, owing to an unanticipated recovery of the international oil market during the second quarter of this year. This gain, which fell within the framework of a 22.6 increase with regard to the first quarter of this year, meant that the barrel of Mexican crude was sold at $12.90, or only 10 cents below predictions. During the first quarter of this year, Mexican Petroleum (PEMEX) generated $3.154 billion in revenues. [Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 23 Aug 94 p 24]

Mario Vinicio Ruiz, president of the Costa Rican Union of Private Enterprise Chambers and Associations, (UCCAEP) stated that during the First Business Meeting held between Mexican and Costa Rican businessmen, deals worth $11 million were transacted. He noted that $9 million corresponds to Costa Rican sales to Mexico. The UCCAEP and the Mexican Businessmen's Council for International Affairs sponsored the meeting as part of a joint program to promote the Free Trade Bilateral Agreement that will enter into force in January 1995. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Aug 94]

The Program of Direct Support to the Countryside has channeled 4.432 billion new pesos to help 1.267 million farmers during the 1993-1994 farming cycles. During

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this time, it has dismissed 116 employees over irregularities and meted out punishment on seven. (Mexico City L.A. SOBERANIA in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 16)

According to figures by EXPANSION magazine, the country's 500 largest companies have assets that total 487.1 billion new pesos, or 32 percent of the GDP. These companies conduct 74 percent of all of the country's exports and 22 percent of the country's imports. The labor force of these companies dropped 2.6 percent—31,831 workers—from 1992 to 1993. In addition, their debts to foreign lenders rose 14.7 percent. (Mexico City L.A. SOBERANIA in Spanish 24 Aug 94 p 42)

The Finance and Public Credit Secretariat reported on 25 August it had collected 81.729 billion new pesos in tax revenues during the first half of this year. (Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0356 GMT 26 Aug 94)

Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] earned 15.349 billion new pesos in revenues during the first six months of 1994 from the national commercialization of 1.3354 million barrels of oil by-products a day. (Mexico City L.A. SOBERANIA in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 40)

According to the Coordinator for Foreign Trade Business Organizations, the Mexican Government was able to stop those attempts by the United States to implement, through legal reforms, protectionist measures which would have been detrimental to Mexican exports. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 25 Aug 94 p 20)

At the end of the Salinas Administration years, Pemex has reached a very sound financial situation with assets worth $50 billion and confirmed crude reserves amounting to 64.316 barrels estimated at $850 billion. Pemex Finance Director Ernesto Marcelman indicated that Pemex debt by the end of 1994 will amount to less than $6 billion, as opposed to $20-billion debt in 1982. Marcelman stressed that the institution's current financial strength has resulted in an avid appetite by international markets to invest in Pemex. (Mexico City EL FINANCIERO in Spanish 26 Aug 94 p 5)

Following peaceful and honest elections, Mexicans have returned to their regular activities. The private sector's projections for 1994 are as follows: a 2.5-percent gross domestic product, 6.5-percent inflation rate, and 11-percent interest rates. The private sector anticipates that in 1995, gross domestic product figures will surpass 4 percent, which will facilitate the creation of 500,000-800,000 new jobs. (Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1900 GMT 29 Aug 94)

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Costa Rica

Interest Office To Be Opened in Cuba

PA3108222994 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1939 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] San Jose, 31 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Naranjo has reported that his government today agreed to open an interest office in Havana to expedite the immigration procedures of those Cubans who want to come to Costa Rica.

The foreign minister said that the decision was made at today's session of the Council of Government "to open the door to relatives of Cubans living in Costa Rica who want to come to this nation."

An official communique explained the process that would allow the reunification, on an orderly fashion and based upon technical criteria, of Cubans living in Costa Rica or Costa Ricans of Cuban descent with their relatives in Cuba." [quotation mark as received]

Some 1,000 people of Cuban origin are currently living in Costa Rica legally. There have been no diplomatic relations between the two countries since they were broken in 1962, shortly after Cuba was suspended from the OAS.

Naranjo explained that the reunification of relatives approved by Costa Rican authorities will take place through a selective reception policy, thus preventing mass arrivals of Cubans in this nation.

The text of the agreement reads as follows: "The Costa Rican Government shall accept those Cubans, whether they are living in Cuba or are being temporarily housed at refugee camps, who have been reliably identified by their relatives living in Costa Rica."

Those Cubans who enter into the country "will be regarded as economic immigrants" and temporary residents and will be subject to the regulations on the subject stipulated in the national laws, adds the communique.

The Council of Government agreed that the refugees or their relatives will incur expenses of the trip, installation, and maintenance and that the administration of President Jose Maria Figueres is committed to guarantee their immigration rights.

Naranjo also pointed out that "these people will remain in the national territory for 24 months" and that following this period of time, the situation of the immigrants still in the country will be studied.

The Council of Government also decided that these procedures will be enforced and put into practice in the Haitian case, although an interest office will not be opened in Port-au-Prince.

Panama

Perez Balladares on Cuban Refugees, Reforming PTJ

PA3108233094 Panama City Cerosio RPC Radio in Spanish 1941 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Report by Marcos Castillo from the Hotel Executive in Panama City on 31 August]

[Text] We are here at the Hotel Executive, where a luncheon in honor of the Puerto Rican mission was held. This luncheon was attended by Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rosello, President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares, and other Panamanian and Puerto Rican businessmen.

At the end of this luncheon, the president-elect spoke with national and international journalists. Among other issues, the president-elect announced the measures he will take regarding the Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] when he assumes office. He also commented on the situation of the arrival of Cuban refugees. Let us listen to the statements of the president-elect:

[Begin recording] [Perez Balladares] Let me tell you something. I think—without assessing the honesty of the current PTJ directors, which I do not question—the law as it is does not clearly establish a chain of command. An unclear chain of command results in irresponsibility, which probably caused many of the problems at the PTJ.

I would only like to say that we are going to evaluate and study this problem to ensure we have a technical body that can thoroughly investigate crimes. We will strip the PTJ of its police responsibilities, which must be taken over by the National Police. But it is too early to say more about this.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, the Government of Cuba has questioned some Central American Governments that agreed to receive rafters. The Cuban foreign minister is in the country. Will you discuss this issue with the foreign minister or the Cuban Government?

[Perez Balladares] I suppose this will be a topic of conversation between Foreign Minister Rodiona and Foreign Minister-designate Lewis Galindo. In our case, we made an offer—which we regret the Cuban Government misunderstood—strictly for humanitarian reasons. We fully respect Cuba's internal situation.

[Unidentified correspondent] [words indistinct] topics of discussion between the United States and Panama will be the very issue of Cuban refugees and your stand on accepting 10,000 refugees in your country?

[Perez Balladares] We established a position when the issue of Haiti was under discussion. This was around 4 June of this year. This position remains unchanged in the case of Cuban refugees on the high seas and is prompted exclusively by humanitarian reasons.

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If our country can help resolve humanitarian problems without risking our national interests, employment possibilities, and security, we will do it. We will do this as long as national Panamanian interests are not put at risk. [end recording]

President-Elect Considers Anti-Castro Protests 'Ill-Timed'

PA0109062594 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2323 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Panama City, 31 Aug (NOTIMEX)—Panamanian President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares today said that the announced protests organized by the presence of Cuban President Fidel Castro at his 1 September inauguration are ill-timed.

Perez Balladares pointed out that the anti-Castro groups have the right to stage peaceful demonstrations, as the one they announced, to protest the presence of the Cuban leader, but he considered the protests "ill-timed."

The president-elect explained that he asked the outgoing Guillermo Endara government to extend an invitation to Castro, as a chief of state, to attend a ceremony to which other rulers and diplomats from several countries were invited as well.

He added his government is willing to do anything that will promote talks and understanding. "I do not think a situation such as the rafters should cloud what could be a climate favorable for holding talks and reaching a consensus," he said.

The next Panamanian president also spoke about the mass departures of Cubans who go to the United States illegally to seek asylum.

Havana has yet to confirm whether Castro will attend the inauguration of Perez Balladares, who won the 8 May elections in Panama.

Poll: 42 Percent Oppose Receiving Cuban Refugees

PA1109072594 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 30 Aug 94 p 14

[Report by Ivonne Briones A.]

[Text] In a recent poll of 250 Panamanians, 42 percent said they disagreed with the arrival of Cuban refugees in Panama.

The survey was conducted for Telemetro television Channel 13 by Federico Guerra, Inc. on 25 and 26 August to determine Panamanians' level of acceptance for receiving Cubans leaving their country.

The poll included citizens 18 and older who reside in Panama City and San Miguelito Districts. There was a total of 250 respondents, 126 of whom were male and 124 female.

In terms of age, 69 respondents were under 25; 100 were between 25 and 40; and 81 were over 40.

In sum, 42 percent opposed the Cubans' arrival; 20 percent said they totally agreed with it; and 37.6 percent would accept it with some reservations.

Among those opposed to the arrival of Cubans, 25.5 percent said we should first improve our own situation; 18.9 percent said there is already too much unemployment and poverty; 10.4 percent said it will bring more problems to the country; and 10.4 percent said it would be unfair to the Haitians.

In conducting this poll, a simple aleatory sample was used, distributing the sample from 25 different points. The size of the sample has a margin of error of approximately 7 percent.

Among other reasons given by the respondents for opposing the arrival of Cuban refugees, 3.8 percent said the country is not ready; 3.8 said there is no money to take care of them; 2.8 said the population is large enough; and 2.8 percent said we do not need more foreigners.

Nicaragua's Chamorro Arrives for Inauguration

PA1109191594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1849 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Panama City, 31 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro arrived in Panama today to attend tomorrow's inauguration of President-elect Ernesto Perez Balladares.

Violeta Chamorro arrived at 1330 (1830 GMT) at Tocumen International Airport on a commercial flight and was received by important officials from the Panamanian Foreign Ministry and the Nicaraguan Embassy.

The Nicaraguan president is accompanied by Pablo Pereira, economy and development minister; Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Pallais; Presidential Adviser Julio Cardenas; and Protocol Chief Sandor Pallais.

Latin American, Taiwanese Officials Arrive

PA0109062594 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Panama, 31 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican President Jose Figueres, Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro, and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, as well as 30 official delegations, have arrived in Panama to attend Ernesto Perez Balladares' inauguration as new president in this country. [passage omitted]

Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rosello, Honduran Presidential Designate Juan de la Cruz Avelar, Ecuadoran Vice President Alberto Dahik, Taiwanese Vice President Li Yuan-zu, and Mexican Foreign Minister Manuel Tello Macias are already in the Panamanian capital, among others. [passage omitted]

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Colombia's Samper Arrives

PA0109004494 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0336 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Panama City, 31 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Colombian President Ernesto Samper today said upon his arrival in Panama that "a negotiated solution must be steadfastly sought" to the Haitian crisis.

Samper, who arrived this evening in Panama City to attend the ceremony in which Ernesto Perez Balladares will become the new Panamanian president tomorrow, indicated "every effort must be exerted so the Haitian people do not pay the consequences."

Referring to Cuba, he said Colombia is interested in the efforts to create better political conditions on the island and he rejected "the use of coercive measures given the prevailing problems."

The Colombian president said he has "excellent relations with his Panamanian counterpart, and he expects this will result in better living conditions for Colombians residing in Panama."

There are "joint projects to improve communications between the two countries and tackle such issues as the struggle against drug money laundering through a regional agreement that renders this task efficient."

Samper announced he will contact representatives of other Latin American banana-producing countries while he is in Panama, with the intention of adopting joint positions concerning the trade dispute they have with the European Union since 1993, where the fruit's imports were reduced.

He also said he will meet with U.S. representatives, including National Drug Control Policy Director Lee Brown, who will attend the inauguration and with whom he will "review" bilateral ties.

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Argentina

Joint Declaration With Chile Highlighted

PY3108192194 Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 27 Aug 94 p 7

[Article by special correspondent Mauricio Cuenca]

[Text] Santiago—The joint declaration that was signed on 26 August by Presidents Carlos Menem and Eduardo Frei clearly expresses Argentina's unrestricted support for Chile's membership in the Mercosur [Common Market of the South], and it contains broad agreements to accelerate border interconnection and to rethink and reassess the plans for the interconnection of gas pipelines.

Although the dialogue remains open, nothing was resolved about Argentina's intentions regarding the supply of gas to Chile, the elimination of the maximum import volume (7 million cubic meters), and the restrictions about the location of gas wells and as an as yet undefined inter-connection. The topic has been postponed until Santiago evaluates the proposal that has been made by Buenos Aires, although the two heads of state expressed their willingness to go ahead with the project.

The mining group of representatives of energy companies that was included in the Argentine delegation engendered a lot of attention. Among others Alejandro Bulgheroni (Bridas), Jose Estenssoro (YPF) [Government Oil Deposits], Santiago Soldati (Sociedad Comercial del Plata), Oscar Vicente (Perez Companc), Milo Sanchez Zinny (Interpetrol), Alberto Velasco (Pluspetrol), and Jorge Ferrari (Petrolera San Jorge).

The fact is the planned gas pipeline does not coincide geographically with the Neuquen-Concepcion oil pipeline and it will demand an investment of $[illegible] billion between the laying of the pipeline and the construction of thermal-electric plants. There is a second project that calls for the network to be built on the environs of Mendoza at a cost of some $500 million.

The document also calls for an intensification of the integration process, and it contains the draft of a treaty agreement.

On the basis of the master plan regarding the 12 mountain passes, special emphasis was placed on several points, which, due to geopolitical importance, can be summed up in the following manner:

To promote investment to develop initially three ocean corridors between the Atlantic and the Pacific that can be used by heavy trucks. These corridors will use the border passes at Jama (Jujuy-Antofagasta) and Cardenal Samore (Comodoro Rivadavia-Puerto Chacabuco).

To conclude the feasibility studies and call international bids in 1995 for the construction of a Low Cordillera Tunnel that will join Los Horcones with Jurical. It is estimated that the tunnel will cost between $300 and $500 million.

To build integrated border complexes in the short term to help with the transit of merchandise and persons, with the consequent customs streamlining, at the following border passes: Cristo Redentor (Mendoza-Santiago), Integracion Austral (Rio Gallegos-Punta Arenas), and San Sebastian (Ushuaia-Punta Arenas). There is also the intention of permanently joining Tierra del Fuego with the continent.

To carry out a feasibility study regarding the rail link between Zapala and Lonquimay at the Pino Hachado pass.

During a breakfast shared with Frei and some 300 local businessmen, Menem stressed that Argentina "will defend Chile's incorporation into the Mercosur." He added that it will do so on 9 September in Rio de Janeiro during the first official meeting between the market's members and Chile.

The president's statement was written into the joint declaration, which also confirms the meeting for that date, where the reduction of trade tariffs will be discussed.

The Chilean businessmen expressed a marked interest in the Mercosur, and they were also stimulated by Menem's proposal "to make advances on the region's processes by deregulating every type of activity."

The joint declaration also mentions Chile's support of Argentina's claim over the Malvinas Islands.

Menem's Remarks During News Conference Reported

PY3108194194 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 27 Aug 94 pp 2, 3

[Article by special correspondent Celestino Rosato]

[Text] Santiago, Chile—Before returning to Buenos Aires last night, President Menem again delved into domestic issues. He said there would be "open and free" Justicialist Party [PJ] primaries next year to nominate the presidential and vice presidential ticket that the ruling party will field for the 1995 elections.

President Menem said: "It is the full ticket that must be elected." He explained that "I will present myself, and if there are four, five, or six people who want to join me, then there will be four, five, or six tickets for the primaries" that will have a candidate for president and a different candidate for vice president. "In addition to other people who want to present themselves," Menem added, thus raising the possibility that Senator Jose Octavio Bordon might run under these terms.

During a news conference that he shared with his Chilean counterpart, Eduardo Frei, President Menem

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[illegible] said: "I will ask them [not further specified] to give me a little time to decide." He added: "If there is a democratic party in Argentina, it is the PJ. The name of my running mate will not be decided by the president, much less by any of his assistants."

CLARIN on 21 August announced that the PJ primaries could be held with various vice presidential candidates and that, in principle, Tucuman Governor Ramon Pablo Ortega, Santa Fe Governor Carlos Reutemann, and Senator Antonio Cafiero, without definitely ruling out Buenos Aires Governor Eduardo Duhalde, among others, might be included on this list.

Grateful over the decoration that he received from the hands of President Fito (the Liberator Bernardo O'Higgins Order), Menem was generous in his responses, and also stated that:

—There will be no alliances with other political parties in general, a way of distancing himself from a proposal to achieve new agreements that had been raised by UCR [Radical Civic Union] leader Raul Alfonsin. After recalling that "we have not lost any elections since 1989," Menem said: "For the time being, it is not appropriate—at least in our country."

—Menem emphasized that Argentina "will not participate in an invasion of Haiti, but will actually participate in a second phase, as it is doing, for example, in Croatia and in other parts of the world."

—Concerning Cuba, Menem recalled: "I already told my friend, Commander Fidel Castro, to his face: Cuba must be democratized. The Cuban head of state is responsible for those leaving Cuba and, in my opinion, Castro and the other people who had to leave for democracy to arrive are dictators."

[illegible]

Sitting next to Menem, President Fito had time to say some things. Among other things, President Fito confirmed that Chile's integration as a Mercosur [Common Market of the South] partner represents "a basic issue and a basic goal for our country."

Fito added that the negotiations to agree with the four member countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay) that will form a common market on 1 January 1995 will begin on 9 September in Brasilia.

Binational integration, favored by the growth of trade and investments, and the Mercosur are the keys to assess the current status of bilateral relations, which the two presidents described as "excellent."

And these keys also serve to facilitate an understanding of the new joint declaration that Menem and Fito signed yesterday before the news conference. The joint declaration also includes a decision made by the two governments promoting the opening of four mountain passes and the construction of a tunnel into the Cristo Redentor in Mendoza Province. This petition was made by the provinces on the Chilean border that want to market their products in the neighboring country.

Another significant item involves a decision to build a gas pipeline, even though its location has still not been determined. In addition, the joint declaration confirms the Chilean support for Argentina's claims over the Malvinas Islands.

CNEA Head Resigns Over Privatization Concerns

PY1108012794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2211 GMT 29 Aug 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Aug (NA)—Manuel Mondino, the chairman of the National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), has resigned his office due to his serious differences he has with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and Energy Secretary Carlos Bastos over the privatization of CNEA.

According to official reports released on 29 August, Mondino handed in his resignation to President Carlos Menem on the evening of 26 August.

The differences Mondino has with Cavallo and Bastos became more acute when the latter submitted a project on the "Transformation and Privatization of the CNEA" last week.

The idea behind this project is to divide the CNEA into two companies. This led Mondino to report that the Economy Ministry was fostering "the breaking up" of CNEA.

From that moment onwards, Mondino's complaints increased. During a ceremony held in Neuquen Province last week, tears welled up in his eyes when he spoke about this project.

The idea is to divide the CNEA into two companies—Nucleoelectrica Inc. and Atomica Inc.

The former will group together all nuclear companies, which will then be privatized.

The private sector will thus participate in the running of nuclear power plants through license contracts.

The Atomica Inc. company will be under state control, and will be in charge of the handling of the fuel cycle and residues, of producing radio-isotopes, and of research activities.

Nucleoelectrica Inc. will be in charge of the generation of atomic energy, which includes the nuclear power plants of Atucha-I, Atucha-II, which is under construction, Embalse, and the Rio Grande hydroelectric plant, which belongs to State Water and Power Enterprise.

The licensee firm will have to comply with the provisions of the operations license granted by the National Regulatory Body for Atomic Energy and establish a fund

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for the deactivation of nuclear power plants and the building of containers for the final disposal of nuclear waste.

It will also provide partial coverage of the insurance for nuclear hazard and comply with the contracts to supply fuel and services to Atomica Inc.

It will have to finish the construction of Atucha-2 together with ENACE Inc., the mixed corporation which is at present building the nuclear power plant.

In a first stage, 60 percent of the shares of Nucleoelectrica Inc. will be sold. This is estimated to take place during the first months of 1995.

Meanwhile, Atomica Inc. will continue to be under government control and will be funded with the proceeds from the sale of fuel to Nucleoelectrica Inc.

Pedro Zabal To Replace Mondino as CNEA Chairman

PY3108211994 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2129 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 30 Aug (NAA)—Guillermo Pedro Zabal, an engineer from Mendoza Province, will replace Manuel Mondino as National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) chairman. Mondino resigned from his post as CNEA chairman after strong disagreements with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo over the CNEA privatization. [passage omitted]

The appointment of Pedro Zabal, a personal friend of Eduardo Bauza, the secretary general of the presidency, disappointed Economy Ministry officials because Cavallo wanted one of his experts to hold this post. [passage omitted]

Bolivia

Cuba's Robaina on Seeking 'Serious, Exhaustive' Talks With U.S.

PY3108031994 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 31 Aug 94 p 7

[Interview with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina by Ramiro Ramirez S. in La Paz on 25 August]

[Text] [Ramirez] In your opinion, what means are feasible for resolving the crisis that has emerged recently in Cuba?

[Robaina] Cuba wants serious, exhaustive, and long-term negotiations. A feasible solution could be sought by first discussing the migration problem, although it is not merely a migration problem; its cause is much more serious, and the true cause (the blockade) has encouraged this illegal exit for the past 30 years.

It is not surprising that the inhabitants of a country that is being condemned to death and disease would want to emigrate. What is surprising, and news to many, is the fact that the illegal emigration to that country should be encouraged when this country (Cuba) has not denied the legal emigration from 1984 to now of some 20,000 Cubans.

What Cuba has stated is that it is not willing to continue guarding U.S. coasts, because that is that country's job.

We have always been patient, willing, and open to dialogue. What we have stated is that we want serious, exhaustive, and long-term negotiations, because it is not just a question of technical measures to decide where to receive and where to take the emigrants. To the same extent that the foreign policy of the revolution regarding this emigration phenomenon is coherent, U.S. policy on the same subject is completely incoherent and arbitrary.

Why should we believe that a migration agreement will solve the problem, if the one signed in 1984 on this subject is being violated? What my country is protesting is the lack of seriousness and responsibility.

[Ramirez] Fidel Castro has stated Cuba's willingness to negotiate a serious and rational solution to the problem. Now U.S. President Bill Clinton has opened the possibility for a solution to the migration problem. What chances are there for direct negotiation between the two governments?

[Robaina] Fidel Castro clearly explained the subject to a group of journalists. Although it is aware that this would not be a definite solution, Cuba will not refuse to start there. But Cuba wants to point out that this would not be a definite solution for one simple reason. What would happen if the agreement states that a total of 10,000 emigrants would be accepted per year? What would happen to those who do not fall within the agreement, and do not meet the requirements of the migration agreement, if illegal emigration continues to be promoted? However, if it is a matter of seeking solutions, Cuba will not refuse to negotiate. Now, following the statements of the two presidents, it is up to the respective foreign ministries to decide what steps should be taken next.

[Ramirez] Many believe that the island and its revolution are sinking because it is clearly the U.S. Government's objective to eliminate the revolution and Castro, as this is the only way to solve the problems the United States is currently experiencing.

[Robaina] This is the most difficult moment the Revolution has experienced in its 34 years. Although this is its most difficult moment, it is also the moment for which the people are most prepared. Moreover, the people and the struggle [proyecto] enjoy more support than they have in the past 34 years. For those who talk about our isolation, we wish to tell them that we feel we are the most accompanied men and women in the world, and not because others share our efforts, but because in the midst of this huge crisis many men and women in the world are now stacking up for their beliefs and maintaining their dignity.

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I want to state categorically that it is no surprise to us that U.S. policy seeks to weaken, undermine, and eliminate the struggle. This is the policy it has implemented over the past 34 years. None but the U.S. Government has done so much to try to oust the Cuban Government, and they admit this.

But it should be noted that for the Cubans no government in the world has or should feel that it has the authority to tell the Cubans how to carry out their negotiations, and whether or not Fidel should get involved in this process. For the Cubans some things are not negotiable: principles, Fidel, dignity, and the right to have their own voice.

The United States, no matter how powerful it may be, has no right to say what should be done in my country, just as we believe we have no right to say what should be done in the United States or any other country in the world. At this difficult moment for my country, I ask that we uphold for the world understanding and respect.

Peasant Leader on Hunger Strike; Students To Join March

PY3008181994 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Relay from Cochabamba by Edwin Mallon]

[Excerpts] Victor Gutierrez, president of the Cochabamba Human Rights permanent assembly, has confirmed that coca growers leader Evo Morales is staging a hunger strike in the Police Intelligence cell. Gutierrez does not know the reasons for Morales' arrest. [passage omitted]

So far this morning, peasants have not yet resumed the march as scheduled. It has been learned that peasant groups are not marching along the roads but through the forests. Remo Perez Barrientos, Cochabamba Tropic Federation legal adviser, said that this morning the departmental Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] and the Federation of Peasants will file a habeas corpus petition demanding the release of peasant leaders Evo Morales and David Terrada.

It has also been reported that university student groups are reportedly heading for Chapare to reinforce the peasants march this morning. According to COB leader Ruben Cortez, the departmental COB will hold a meeting today to establish what actions will be undertaken in support of peasants who are reportedly being strongly repressed by the government.

Bomb Injures Three, Causes Damage to La Paz Store

PY3008150894 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] A dynamite attack was perpetrated on 29 August against a store owned by suspended prosecutor Jose Neftalia. The explosion injured three people and caused damage. The store is located on Yamacocho Street in La Paz, near the Labor Ministry and the Supreme Court buildings. The reason for the attack is not known. Neftalia has a case pending in the Chamber of Deputies Human Rights Commission for alleged torture and violations of detainees linked with leftist subversive groups, and persons charged with drug trafficking. [recorded passage indistinct]

Political Parties Experience 'Severe Leadership Crisis'

94SM0644A La Paz HOY in Spanish 28 Jul 94 pp 12-13

[Article by Baldwin Montero Plaza: "Where Are the Leaders?"—first paragraph is HOY introduction]

[Text] The MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] is without a doubt the party in the national political spectrum most seriously affected. The ADN [Nationalist Democratic Action] is also experiencing a severe leadership crisis since its founder left the ranks of national officials. The CONDEPA [Conscience of the Fatherland], for its part, is advancing steadily, while the leading government party has no successor worthy of Goni to offer. As for the UCS [Civic Solidarity Union], its participation in government seems to have worked more against Max Fernandez than for him. And although the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] does indeed have leaders of political importance and regional weight, it too has no one who could take the place of the present foreign minister, Antonio Aranibar.

Since the reestablishment of democracy, the political parties have been in the firm grasp of a handful of leaders distributed among four or more organizations that show no sign of renewal on the national leadership level.

It would seem that most of the leaders aspire to posts in the legislative branch, the cabinet, or some other department on the national level, while interest in the presidency of the Republic is relative.

The historic defeat of the left wing, the difficulties experienced by the right wing in finding a leader capable of maintaining a model that is, in effect, being increasingly challenged, and crises in the individual parties paint a somber picture of a democracy without leaders.

The MIR

The MIR is without a doubt the most seriously affected party in the national political spectrum.

Initially, the endless list of corrupt acts committed by its leaders, followed by the reported links with the drug trafficker Isaac "Oso" Chavarria, reduced this party to a shadow of what it was in 1989. In the elections that year, it came in a respectable third and won the presidency of the Republic thanks to an agreement with the Nationalist Democratic Action and the Conscience of the Fatherland.

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The MIR, which appeared to be one of the most solid fronts for future national elections, now seems about to disappear despite the fact that the MIR leaders of what was called the "worthy" sector at one time are making every possible effort to advance the process they described as "refounding."

The leader of the parliamentary bench, Carlos Iturri, who became the authorized spokesman for the MIR after the practical disappearance of the previous leader, Oscar Eid Franco, has proposed that the party leadership meet this coming 20 August. At this meeting, the amendments to the ordered bylaws would be analyzed first, and then the desirability of changing the party name would be discussed. And, finally, the order to expel all of the leaders implicated in deeds of corruption issued at the last meeting of the National Political Committee would be carried out.

In view of the disappearance of Eid Franco from the political scene as a result of his involvement in the "drug links" case, what is most likely is that the MIR leaders will meet in August, as recommended by Iturri, because the regional leaders are also exerting great pressure for definition of the future party.

What concerns this party most is the lack of leadership. Without Jaime Paz Zamora, who has left political life, the MIR is not what it was, and its leaders fear it will never regain that status. If Eid is put on trial, as a number of the parliamentarians responsible for the "drug links" case have thus far believed will happen, there is no other visible candidate for leadership in this party.

Given this possibility, names such as those of the former prefect of La Paz, Fernando Cajias, and even Carlos Iturri himself, have been mentioned. Iturri have broad support in these districts (La Paz and Oruro), but to date they have repeatedly denied that they would consider assuming national leadership posts.

Some members of the MIR, however, have not dismissed the possibility that Jaime Paz Zamora might return to political life or even become a candidate for the presidency of the Republic again in 1997. It is thought that if he does so, it will be under the sponsorship of another organization, since on leaving the presidency he announced the organization of a new political party.

The ADN

The ADN, as well, has suffered a serious leadership crisis since its founder, General Hugo Banzer Suarez, left the national leadership on learning of the defeat in the last elections.

The leaders of this party are certain that there is not the slightest possibility that Banzer will return to the political arena at the head of the ADN, or that he will run again for the presidency in the next national elections.

"General Banzer will remain the founding leader, having served 15 years, and will continue to guide the party's actions. However, he does not want to be involved in the daily management of the party. That is a decision he has made, and he will continue to do what he is doing," Jorge Quiroga, the executive secretary of the ADN, has said.

According to this leader, the ADN is a party immersed in the task of reorganization with a view to gaining greater strength. It is to this end that it is promoting a process of internal democratization.

"The members will vote directly for their political leaders," Quiroga says. He went on to add that the new decisions will be ratified at the next extraordinary assembly scheduled for the month of August.

Later, he said that the process of reenrollment will be pursued, leading to the election of the national leaders and the political leader by the end of the year.

National leadership is regarded as a preliminary step to presidential candidacy. However, the members of the ADN are very cautious when they discuss this subject, because they believe that General Banzer, in his capacity as lifelong leader, has the first option for candidacy for the leading national public post.

There is already a candidate for the political leadership post. He is Engineer Guillermo Fortun, the former president of the Senate and one of the individuals closest to the historic leader. However, others mentioned as possible candidates for leadership of the parliamentary bench are Fernando Kieffer, former Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean Abaroa, and the present leader, Jorge Landivar, although on a number of occasions, this last-mentioned individual has said that he plans to leave political life for a while.

The picture will begin to come clearer, both for the ADN and the MIR, immediately after August, and it will take definite shape by the end of the year.

The CONDEPA

The third opposition party has solid leadership highly resistant to change. Carlos Palenque Aviles is certain to continue in command of this force for a considerable time, and no one is in doubt of this.

He still has the charisma and the personality that captivated the poorest strata of the people, and he and his wife Monica, the mayor of the largest city in Bolivia, represent the essence of their party.

Although those who claim authorship of the endogenous model abandoned the party for the Popular Patriotic Movement (MPP), the CONDEPA continues to have latent strength, at least in the city of La Paz.

However, it is true that sustaining this situation remains basically in the hands of the mayor, because whether there are more or fewer votes in 1997 will depend on her work.

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Where the participation of this party in the Congress is concerned, it suffered a harsh blow when the legislators of the MPP and the Unity and Progress of Ivo Kuljis withdrew.

Despite everything, the analysts believe that the CONDEPA still has a distance to cover before becoming a national alternative. Following its various failed electoral attempts to extend its broad popularity in La Paz to other departments.

The MNR

The MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement], which is the leading government party and also enjoys a majority, lacks the elements to be viewed from a national leadership point of view.

Apart from Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, who appeared at just the right moment, when Dr. Victor Paz Estenssoro was unable, for reasons of health, to participate in a new national election, there is no one with what it would really take to win the majority support of the population.

There will be a truly unpleasant clash when the time comes for the members of the movement to choose their candidate for the presidency in 1997.

The current president of the Chamber of Deputies and deputy leader of the MNR, Guillermo Bedregal, has announced his intention to run for the presidency of the Republic in 1997, although he explained that this will not involve an internal split in his party.

Other members of the movement note that two other deputy leaders, Juan Carlos Duran (president of the Senate) and Javier Campero Paz (president of the Economic Commission of the Chamber of Deputies) constitute a harmonious team.

These are, for the time being, the possible presidential candidates of this movement, which might be the source of a major surprise if its main competitors, the MIR and the ADN, continue to decline in strength.

The UCS

The Civic Solidarity Union appears to be a party that succeeded in establishing itself by staying in the government, because the political-party work was virtually abandoned after the signing of the Governability Pact.

The UCS can be described as a front dependent on its leader. Without Max Fernandez, this party would not exist. And this becomes clear whenever one talks with any of its leaders.

There is no need to analyze how the UCS managed to acquire such strength in the national political environment (everything possible has already been said about this). However, the fact is that without the leading businessman in the country, there would be no valid argument to rally the members of the UCS beyond the blackmail statement that "one must work for the good of the country."

The MIR

The Free Bolivia Movement, finally, does not have anyone who could take the place of the present foreign minister of the Republic, Antonio Aranibar, although it does have a number of leaders with notable political careers and regional weight.

The last national elections brought this party no joy.

The MIR saw a decline in its voting support from the level it had achieved in the municipal elections. This provided yet another proof, as a number of other cases have, that there is an abundance of leaders on the regional level, but few on the national level.

Colombian Company Sets Up Soybean Processing Plant

94SM0044B La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 29 Jul 94 p 7

[Text] Santa Cruz, 28 Jul—Because Bolivia has succeeded in consolidating real economic, political, and social stability, and also because Oriente offers excellent prospects for the production of soybeans, Gravetal, a Colombian business group, has decided to establish a modern industrial plant in Santa Cruz for the collection, processing, and export of the oil, cakes, and meal obtained from the soybean, the general manager, Luis German Osorno Calero has announced.

The plant is located in Puerto Suarez, where the Paraguay-Parana waterway begins. It required an investment of $10 million in infrastructure and equipment alone. The work included the dredging of the Tamengo Canal and the Concepcion Riavine in order to provide the plant with its own port.

Another $15 million, in addition to this investment, constitutes the working capital of Gravetal Bolivia, which will operate as a subsidiary of the parent company with headquarters in Colombia. This company has established itself over the course of the past 40 years as one of the leading soybean processing industries and a major exporter.

Osorno said that the enterprise has no plans to expand its current infrastructure to include the industrial processing or refining of oil. This is because the main objective is to establish a plant to supply the Colombian facility, which is a major importer of raw materials from the markets in the United States, Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia.

The choice of Bolivia as the location for this plant representing an investment of millions was dictated by various factors, Osorno said. They included the high cost of land in Colombia, the guerrilla conflicts affecting almost all of the rural zones, and the poverty Colombia

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accords to other sectors like coffee production in which the country is more competitive internationally.

"Bolivia has economic, political, and social stability—an enviable situation for any country. It offers excellent prospects for the production and export of soybeans. In addition, it is a participant in the Andean Pact, and this qualifies it for preferential treatment in its trade relations with Colombia, which also works to our benefit," Osorno added.

The Bolivian Government proposal that use be made of the Temporary Import for Export (INTEX) system that will provide it with preferential treatment for its operations also influenced the decision.

None of the sources of the Gravetal Bolivia investment are local. In other words, the capital is 100 percent Colombian. Also, not one single centavo will be obtained from state financing or government bodies, since the totality of these financial resources will come from private banks.

As of the present, the projects are 99 percent complete, so that it will be possible for operations to begin next week. Soybeans are already in storage in the company silos, which have a capacity of 45,000 tons.

Osorno emphasized that Gravetal Bolivia has been able to purchase 80,000 tons of soybeans grown in the 1994 harvest, paying the highest market prices per ton to the producers. The goal for the coming years is to reach a production level of 350,000 tons of soybeans and byproducts, the equivalent of 75 percent of the current domestic production.

And, finally, the general manager of the company also gave assurance that the establishment of Gravetal in Bolivia will also bring benefits to the country and to Oriente by generating foreign exchange and new jobs, providing an incentive for increased soybean production, and establishing a plant suited to the industrial processing of the product.

Brazil

Government Will Receive Cuban Refugees 'As a Rule'

PY1108192794 Sao Paulo AGENCIA ESTADO in Portuguese 2227 GMT 30 Aug 94

[Text] Brasilia, 30 Aug (AE)—As a rule, the Brazilian Government will receive Cuban refugees, as it did with the seven Cubans who were rescued on the high seas by a ship flying the Mexican flag and dropped off in Salvador yesterday. The government, however, will not grant them the status of political exiles or any privileges. This was reported by Itamarati official Frederico Duque Estrada. He has been receiving news to the effect that after the U.S. decision on reducing Cuban immigration to its territory, Brazil may possibly be included in the evasion route of Cubans who are dissatisfied with Fidel Castro's regime.

The criterion for receiving the Cubans is the same used for Angolans, Haitians, Yugoslavs, Togolese, and other peoples who, for various reasons, face immigration related problems.

As opposed to the case of exiles, who are accepted under special circumstances like political persecution in their country of origin, the Cubans, according to Duque Estrada, were accepted as refugees without any other classification. In this case, it is the same thing as asking for refugee status based on economic, racial, or religious reasons, or as consequence of a civil war, or personal frustration.

Under this condition, the Cuban refugees will have the right to travel, work, marry, and engage in economic activity. Trips abroad, however, are conditioned upon the authorization of the UNHCR, under whose custody they remain. Duque Estrada does not believe that Cubans would come to Brazil en masse, especially given the distance, the difficulties of the trip en route to Brazil, and the overall hazardous conditions encountered by the raft people escaping from Cuba.

Duque Estrada, who has accompanied Foreign Minister Celso Amorim in the Brazilian Government negotiations to reintegrate Cuba into Latin America, said that Brazil will not allow the migration issue to hinder the negotiations. By determination of President Itamar Franco, Itamarati, according to Duque Estrada, will continue with its attempts to mediate in the dialogue to solve the Cuban crisis. In the specific case of the Cuban refugees, the Fidel Castro administration did not raise any objections to the Brazilian position.

According to Duque Estrada, the Cuban Government has given concrete demonstrations of being interested in joining Latin America. The main demonstration, which was also mediated by Brazil, was the decision regarding signing the Tlatelolco Treaty, which envisages the elimination of nuclear weapons from Latin America and the Caribbean. President Franco learned of this decision this week through Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina. Cuba also allowed the visit of UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ayala Lasso, with whom Castro had broken relations years ago.

Cardoso Supports Cuban Refugee Decision, Criticizes Castro

PY1108011994 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 31 Aug 94 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] presidential candidate Fernando Henrique Cardoso said on 30 August that Cuban President Fidel Castro is isolated in history. Cardoso supported the

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Brazilian Government's decision to grant asylum to the seven Cuban refugees who arrived in Salvador (Bahia) on 22 August.

He said: "Depending on the situation, asylum must be granted. I believe Fidel Castro is backward with respect to the modifications that he should have introduced into Cuba's political regime. This has been so obvious for so long. He has his own place in history, but now he is obsolete."

IBOPE Poll Shows Increasing Support for Cardoso

PY3108125494 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1800 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] The latest IBOPE [Brazilian Public Opinion and Statistics Institute] poll reveals that Fernando Henrique Cardoso would be elected president of the Republic if the elections were held today. The popularity of the Brazilian Social Democracy Party presidential candidate has increased since the last poll. He now has the support of 45 percent of the voters, which is five points more than is necessary to win in the 3 October elections.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who in the last poll had support from 19 percent of voters, dropped to 15 percent. The candidates of the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party], Orestes Quercia and the PDT [Democratic Labor Party], Leonel Brizola, are tied for third place, both with 7 percent of the votes. Next is Eneas Carneiro from the PRONA [National Order Redefinition Party], who maintained 4 percent. Espiridiao Amin from the PPR [Progressive Renewal Party] increased his support from 2 to 3 percent. Amin was slightly ahead of the PSC [Social Christian Party] candidate, Admiral Hermano Fortuna.

Of the 2,000 voters interviewed by IBOPE throughout the country between 24 and 29 August, 5 percent said they will either annul or cast blank votes, and 10 percent said they are undecided.

Paraguay's Wasmosy Meets Cardoso, 'Hopes' He Wins Election

PY3108130194 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 30 Aug 94 p 4

[Text] Sao Paulo—During a break in the recording of his program for the TV Cultura channel, Fernando Henrique Cardoso met informally with Paraguayan President Juan Carlos Wasmosy at the Massimo, one of Sao Paulo's most famous restaurants. Wasmosy revealed to friends that he hopes the Brazilian Social Democracy Party [PSDB] candidate wins the election. Wasmosy, who is visiting Brazil, was having lunch with businessmen who are members of the Latin American Entrepreneurial Council. Consul Maria Ester Sanchez introduced the two. She is a Cardoso fan and had stopped at his table to greet him. She told him that Wasmosy was having lunch on the upper floor and the PSDB candidate decided to meet him.

Cardoso is a long-time friend and if he is elected, he will undoubtedly be a good president, Wasmosy said. The Paraguayan president was in the company of Paraguayan entrepreneurs and deputies of the Paraguayan National Republican Association, including Deputy Conrado Papalardo Zaldivar, who is president of the Chamber of Deputies Economic Affairs Committee. Papalardo accompanied the PSDB candidate to his table. He then said: I hope he wins the election.

After meeting the Paraguayan fans, Cardoso met former Deputy Roberto D'Avila (PDT-RJ) [Democratic Labor Party-Rio de Janeiro]. D'Avila is one of presidential candidate Leonel Brizola's closest advisers. D'Avila is also Cardoso's friend and greeted him at the table where he was having lunch with former Minister Roberto Guzman and journalist Elio Gaspari.

Cardoso asked D'Avila: What will be Brizola's position in the runoff? Will we run together?

D'Avila smiled, embraced his friend, and said: Who knows?

Visiting Paraguayan President on Navigation, Reforestation

PY3108183594 Buenos Aires ABC COLOR in Spanish 31 Aug 94 p 13

[Report by correspondents Carlos Peralta and Eduardo Franco]

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro—Wasmosy talked about the increasing integration of South American countries during his second day in Brazil. The president said that when the Yguaa project is finished, we will only need a navigational lock at Itaipu to establish a river link between Itaipu's artificial lake and Sao Paulo. Yguaa is located on the Parana River near the mouth of the Tiete River, and the only obstacle to uninterrupted navigation between Itaipu and Sao Paulo is a navigational lock. If the lock is constructed, the Parana-Tiete waterway will be operational from Sao Paulo to Itaipu, thus integrating the entire region to river with the consequent benefit for trade.

Reforestation Campaign

Wasmosy said his contacts with authorities in Sao Paulo, where he began his official visit, were positive. Early yesterday morning the president departed for Vitoria, Espirito Santo State, where he spent the day. He visited the factory "Aracruz Celulose S.A." He discussed the possibility of sending Brazilian technicians to our country to analyze existing raw materials, such as eucalyptus trees, with factory directors. Wasmosy talked about the reforestation of large areas, based on the consideration that natural forests are increasingly disappearing. He stressed the Brazilian experience and the factory's work in that area. Children from 10 to 18 years old work in large numbers in nurseries where they not only receive a salary, but also technical training in

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[text] Asunsolo said the same thing could be done in our country. [passage omitted]

Kicillof: 'Very Satisfied' With Real Plan

PY1109013494 Buenos Aires C.I. 9 SEP 94 in Spanish
11 Sep 94 Economic Section p 7

[Interview with Brazilian Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero by C.A. Nicolini correspondent Carlos Reymundo Roberts; place and date not given]

[Text] Brasilia—Brazilian Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero is very cautious. He is "very satisfied" with the real plan, which is stabilizing Latin America's largest and most unmanageable economy.

Ricupero carefully notes: "We have only just begun."

During an interview with C.A. Nicolini, Ricupero, who has a full head of hair now and who has been described as Itamaraty's most brilliant diplomat, said there are similarities and dissimilarities between the real plan and Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo's convertibility program. He added that the Brazilian market is "eagerly" awaiting the Argentine products that will arrive following the consummation of Mercosur [Common Market of the South].

[Roberts] How do you assess the real plan two months after its implementation?

[Ricupero] Very positively. We changed the currency without any upheaval. Inflation has been reduced by more than 40 points. There is recovery. The real is a strong currency that is much in demand. We are satisfied, but there still are things to be achieved. We have only just begun.

[Roberts] The real plan is based on freezing the monetary base. Its expansion is surpassing scheduled targets. Does this not threaten the program?

[Ricupero] We established the monetary base by law, with the same goal as the Argentine convertibility program. To guarantee stability for the currency. It is true that there has been a higher monetary base increase than expected. Nevertheless, there is a positive cause for the availability of cash. The people trust the new currency and want to have it. We are not issuing currency to finance the state because there is no deficit; indeed we achieved a surplus during the last months. We are not issuing currency to purchase foreign currency, a component that used to exercise much pressure on the entry of foreign funds.

The solution involved allowing the foreign exchange rate to fluctuate. We have a foreign exchange rate ceiling, namely, one real for one foreign exchange unit, but without a floor.

[Roberts] The dollar has dropped to 0.84 reais and there are many complaints by exporters.

[Ricupero] It will be necessary to discover a natural method to encourage dollar demand because the Central Bank does not participate. It does not purchase or sell. One possibility would be to allow private companies with debts in dollars, to make some prepayments.

The foreign exchange rate has dropped significantly. If this situation lingers, it will be difficult to keep exports competitive.

[Roberts] What would you do in this case?

[Ricupero] There is a sort of agreement that the Central Bank will not allow the dollar to drop below a certain level. Nevertheless, we are not disclosing this level.

[Roberts] Is it far away?

[Ricupero] Yes. For the time being, yes.

[Roberts] With cheap dollars, Brazil is swamped with imported products and you are threatening to increase the opening.

[Ricupero] Deregulation of imports is essential for our goal of reducing domestic prices. Entrepreneurs were very irresponsible when they outrageously adjusted their prices before the issuance of the new currency. They wanted to establish a buffer. We are willing to enhance imports. We are expecting a lot of Argentine products.

[Roberts] There are talks about a possible black September over wage negotiations by the trade unions that group bank employees and oil workers.

[Ricupero] We sincerely do not believe there will be any problems. The real plan is overwhelmingly supported by the people and there seems to be no political room for a large strike. I believe even Lula [Luiz Inacio da Silva], the Workers Party presidential candidate, will act as a restraint factor.

[Roberts] Some people believe the most significant threat for the real plan involves President Franco and his pressure on the economic team. You have already denied need to resign.

[Ricupero] Journalists exaggerate a lot. The president has a great social sensibility. He has always had this sensibility. Then the problems of salary increases for military personnel and public servants cropped up. A solution that did not affect the real plan was achieved. We get along very well with the president.

[Roberts] Are you concerned over the consumption boom?

[Ricupero] Yes. It is like a warning light on the pressure exercised on the prices. The so-called collateral tax, namely currency devaluation, has recently involved about $2 billion per month and has affected the poorest people who are defenseless.

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These funds entered the market. It is good to see that the people who have been unable to consume are now able to do so. Nevertheless, we are very closely following this issue.

[Roberts] Can the real plan increase unemployment?

[Ricupero] Incidentally, I always praised Cavallo's program but some people warn me: Yes, but it caused huge unemployment. Cavallo told me it is an old problem and that the number of unemployed people grew despite the opening of many new jobs. We are not experiencing any unemployment yet thanks to the economic recovery. Nevertheless, I do not rule out the possibility that this problem might still crop up.

[Roberts] The next government might have to cope with this problem if it wants to streamline the state apparatus.

[Ricupero] The size of Brazil is our problem. People naively believe it is a huge advantage. Quite the contrary. It is very difficult to manage a country that has so many differences and is so large.

We have a huge state apparatus. I believe the next government will have to make an effort to reform the Constitution in order to promote increased privatization.

[Roberts] If [presidential hopeful Fernando Henrique] Cardoso becomes president, will you be his finance minister?

[Ricupero] Well, it remains to be seen if he invites me.

Franco Summons Ricupero for Explanations on Inflation Rate

PY1108122794 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 Aug 94 Business and Finance Section p 1

[Excerpt] President Itamar Franco has commanded Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero for a meeting to ask for an explanation of the inflation rate registered in August, which stood at 5.46 percent. Today Franco will meet Ricupero as soon as he returns to Brasilia after a six-day visit to Juiz de Fora [Minas Gerais State]. Franco wants to clarify why the economic team mistakenly forecast a 1.5 percent inflation rate for this month.

With the 5.46 percent IPC-r [Consumer Price Index-real] registered in August, the inflation rate accumulated, in the first two months of the real totals 11.87 percent. Minister Ricupero said: "This is the real citizen's last sigh. The other indexes stood at lower levels." The IPC-r will be used to readjust salaries in the collective agreement renewal date.

Finance Ministry Special Adviser Edmar Bacha has reported the IPC-r figures in Rio de Janeiro. He reported on them to journalists, and showed them diagrams indicating that prices were dropping. Bacha said: "We must distinguish dead inflation from live inflation. The current inflation rate is very low and very small." In his opinion, the 5.46 percent is "dead inflation," i.e., a past inflation that does not reflect the way prices behaved this month. For methodological reasons the IPC-r [i.e., prices registered from 16 July to 15 August to those registered from 16 June to 15 July]. The August IPC-r, therefore, is still affected by the price hike registered about before the implementation of the real. [passage omitted]

Ricupero Calls IPC-R Inflation Rate 'Good News' for Workers

PY1108143594 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 2000 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] During a speech Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero gave yesterday via a national television and radio hookup, he preferred to consider the 5.46 percent IPC-R [Consumer Price Index-real] inflation rate measured from 16 July to 15 August as good news for the workers. Ricupero said that the index, which is used to adjust salaries on the basis of collective labor bargains, guarantees that workers will recover any loss they could have suffered during the URV [Real Value Unit] period.

Ricupero then stressed that the savings accounts are not losing to inflation because their earnings are always above the average rate of all inflation indexes.

The finance minister also warned people of the dangers of credit purchases. As an example he said, considering the interest rates that are currently being charged on the market, it is more advantageous to save money in savings accounts and buy later with cash.

Talks Begun With Venezuela To Create 'Mercosouth'

PY1108062794 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE S.PAULO in Portuguese 1830 GMT 31 Aug 94

[Text] Boa Vista, 31 Aug (AE)—In Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela, yesterday Brazil and Venezuela achieved some guidelines representing the first specific step toward establishing a common market in this region, an endeavor Mercosur [Southern Common Market of the South] [following the example of Mercosur] [Common Market of the South]. At the Venezuelan Corporation of Guyana (CVG) headquarters, authorities and experts from the two countries and some guests representing international organizations established guidelines for regional integration and economic, border, and trade development of Roraima State (Venezuela) and Roraima State [Brazil]. CVG is a holding that manages, with a ministerial rank, the state-owned enterprises established in that region.

These guidelines will be followed by a bilateral agreement on economic complementation, including border trade, territorial regulations, and special projects in agriculture, tourism, education, small and medium-sized companies, and science and technology. The two sides have a common goal: the establishment of a free trade zone stretching between the Venezuelan city of

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Santa Elena de Uairen and the small Brazilian village of Pacaraima. But there are two problems. Roraima Governor Ottomar de Souza Pinto wants the 950 km long BR-174 highway paved and the Manaus-Caracarai waterway implemented, thus making the Rio Branco navigable year-round and combining the transportation infrastructure for serving the future trade zone. Concerning the BR-174 highway, which passes through Manaus, Boa Vista, and Pacaraima, the state has already paved 360 of its 950 km with state funds, without any federal assistance.

For his part, Bolivar Governor Andres Velasquez wants the Brazilian authorities to control the presence of illegal gold miners in the region. Velasquez says: "They carry out activities that are extremely harmful to the environment and the indigenous people, and indiscriminately invade Venezuelan territory. But this problem cannot prevent the two governments from promoting the development of a region that has incalculable potential."

OAS Special Programs Director Newton Antunes emphasized the partnership between OAS and the Amazon Regional Development Superintendency (Sudam) to study development alternatives for border trade between Brazil and Venezuela. Antunes says: "The OAS now wants to include the Venezuelan Government in these projects to directly benefit Bolivar State, as it has already been doing with Roraima State."

Itamaraty says Minister Romildo Veras to Puerto Ordaz

The Venezuelans sent Border Minister [Ministerio de Fronteras] Pompeyo Marquez and Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas to Puerto Ordaz.

German Vice Economy Minister Asks for Investment Protection

PY1108173094 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE S.PAULO in Portuguese 1827 GMT 11 Aug 94

[Text] Florianopolis, 11 Aug (AE)—German Vice Economy Minister Heinrich Kolb said that the signing of an agreement on protection of foreign investments represents a "sine qua non condition for a second wave of German investments to arrive in Brazil." According to Kolb this wave would be carried out by the medium-sized companies that do not have the financial backing of large companies to cope with misfortunes. Ending the discrimination against foreign capital and, in the short term, the repayment of overdue loans totalling 320 million German marks (about $200 million) by Brazil are the main points pending for speeding up the economic cooperation between Brazil and Germany.

Overdue repayments involve guarantees given by the German government agency to German companies that exported to Brazilian companies linked to the energy sector. The Brazilian companies are state-owned and are subject to the approval of the 1994 budget, which is under discussion in Congress, to make the repayments. Kolb is counting on a quick solution to this issue, which is preventing Hermes from approving new loans for Brazil. Kolb participated in a meeting between Brazilian and German entrepreneurs and representatives that ended in Florianopolis today.

Chile

'Text' of Constitutional Reform Bill

PY1108134094 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 19 Aug 94 p C7

["Text" of Constitutional Reform bill submitted by the executive branch to Congress—date not given]

[Text]

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM BILL

Title I

About the Legitimacy and Efficiency of the Executive and Legislative Branches **Article 1.** The following amendments to the Chilean Constitution are hereby included:

1) The following phrase is included in Clause 1 of Article 24 following the period (.) and new paragraph that now becomes period (.) and no new paragraph: "The two houses of the legislative branch, in a plenary and public session of Congress, will hear a state of the Nation address on 21 May of every year."

2) The following final, new, clause is hereby added to Article 28:

"If the candidate or candidates referred to in Clauses 1 or 2 die or become permanently disabled before the elections, the party or pact they represent may register a new candidate for the same election, in compliance with the law. In the case of the Clause 2, if the candidate is not replaced the new candidate will be the one who obtained the third largest number of votes, and in that successive and descending order."

3) The following phrase is hereby added to Clause 1 of Article 33, following the period (.) and new phrase, that now becomes the period (.) and no new paragraph: "State ministers, on behalf of the president of the Republic, may make suggestions to bills. However, those referring to issues mentioned in Clauses 3 and 4 of Article 62 will also require the signature of the minister of state named by the president of the Republic through a supreme decree."

4) The Clause 1 of Article 43 is hereby replaced as follows:

"The Chamber of Deputies comprises 120 members elected by direct vote in the electoral districts established by the respective organic law. Two or more deputies per district are elected."

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5) The phrase "having finished high school or its equivalent" is hereby eliminated from Article 44.

6) The following amendment to Article 45 is hereby included:

a) The phrases included between the words "the [1] regions of the country" and "two senators" of Clause 1 are hereby replaced by the following phrase: "in the regions of the country. The constitutional organic law will establish the number of senators that each electoral jurisdiction should elect, which will be at least two."

b) Eliminate from Clause 2 the expression "elected by direct vote."

c) Eliminate Clauses 3, 4, 5, and 6.

7) Eliminate the following sentence from Article 46: "Two years residence in the respective region counting from the day of the election, having finished high school or its equivalent."

8) Include the following changes in Clause 1 of Article 47:

a. Eliminate the expressions "elected by direct vote" and "and more than two years until the end of the period, the position from which he would have been destituted."

b. Include after the words "with the citizen" the following phrase: "of the same party or independent if there is no party."

c. Include the following phrase after the period [.] and new paragraph which now becomes period [.] and no new paragraph: "If this does not apply, the position will be left vacant."

9) Replace Section 2 of Number 1 of Article 48 with the following new section: "To gather and analyze the background necessary for eventually exercising its supervisory rights, the Chamber of Deputies—with the quorum established in the constitutional organic law—may create investigating committees.

"During the execution of the duties of the investigating committee, deputies will refrain from publicly disclosing their judgement or opinions. The formation, rights, functioning, and the maximum duration of the committees as well as the destination and juridical effects of reports issued by the committees will be established by the constitutional organic law. This law must, in every case, establish guarantees and safeguards to ensure respect for the rights of people who voluntarily testify or who are in some way affected by the investigation."

10) Include in the Item c. of Number 2 of Article 48, between the words "magistrates" and "of the courts" the following expression: "of the constitutional courts."

11) Replace Clause 4. of No. 2. of Article 48, following the period [.] next paragraph, with period [.] and no new paragraph, and replace the conjunction "and" in Clause 5 of the same number with the article. "The."

12) Include the following modifications to Article 50:

a) Add to Clause 2, No. 1, after period [.] next paragraph, that now becomes period [.] and no new paragraph, the following: "and whenever there is no other legal regulation authorizing them. There is no need for congressional approval of those treaties which, in compliance with the laws, the president is empowered to achieve. Moreover, what is established in Clauses 4 and 5 of Article 72 is also applicable, whenever pertinent, to these international agreements."

b) Add in No. 1 the following final new clause, replacing the current word "and," which precedes it with a period [.]:

"The provisions of a treaty may be repealed or amended only in compliance with what is established in the treaty itself or with the applicable regulations established by international law. The supreme decree must be issued within 10 days of its enforcement at the international level by the country responsible for the pertinent repeal or modification. The publication of the supreme decree will be done within the deadline established in Clause 1 of Article 72."

13) Replace Article 51 with the following:

"Article 51. Chamber of Deputies and Senate sessions will be held from 21 May of each year to 20 May of the following year."

14) Replace Clause 1 of Article 52, with the following:

"Article 52.- The president of the Republic may summon the Chamber of Deputies, the Senate, or Congress during any recess that the latter may convene. In this case, the respective congressional chamber or Congress will only deal with issues pertaining to the legislative or international issues indicated by the president."

15) Add the following final, new, clause to Article 56:

"Any deputy or senator may request specific background information from the administration through the appropriate cabinet member, who must reply within 30 days. The constitutional organic law will regulate the procedure for making this request; additionally, it will establish appropriate punishments whenever the mandates response remains unanswered."

16) Include the following modifications to Article 57:

a) Intercalate, after Clause 1, the following new Clause 2, after the current second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh clauses which will become third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eight, respectively: "A deputy or senator who violates a secret or guarantee which, in exercise of his duties, was used to obtain facts or specific information will be separated from his post."

b) Add the following final clause:

"Deputies and senators will also be separated from their posts through their voluntary resignations with the

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approval of two-thirds of the members of the respective corresponding chamber on active duty."

(7) Modify Article 58, in the following manner:

a) Replace in Clause 2 the expression "respective High Court" with the following: "respective Appellate Court."

b) Replace in Clause 3 the expression "respective Higher Court" for the following: "respective Court of Appeals."

(8) Add to Article 63 the following expressions: "and in particular," after the phrase "whenever it is approved in general" and "in a second constitutional proceeding" after the phrase "will return to its origin."

(9) Intercalate in Article 66, the following new Clause 2, with the current second clause becoming the third clause:

"Without detriment to what is established in Article 71, after discussing and voting on a particular bill which has already been approved by the respective Chamber, it may be submitted to the proper committee. In this case, and whenever unanimously approved by said committee, it will be understood that it was also approved by the Chamber, if after two ordinary sessions—including those during which the respective report was given—unless a cabinet member or one-fourth of the members of the respective Chamber ask for a discussion or a vote on it. Voting and discussion in the Chamber on constitutional amendments bills and draft bills that require a special quorum for their approval cannot be omitted."

(10) In Article 67, the phrase between the words "If the mixed commission" and "the present members" is hereby replaced by: "Should the mixed commission not reach agreement, or should one house reject the draft bill submitted by the mentioned commission, the president of the Republic may ask the house that originally proposed the draft bill if it insists on approval by two-thirds of its members that approved the bill in the first vote. Once this has been decided, the bill will be submitted for a second vote to the reviewing committee and it will only be regarded as rejected if the majority of acting deputies or senators reject it."

(11) The following final, new clause is added to Article 68:

"Regardless of what is established in previous articles, the constitutional organic law of Congress will regulate the performance of mixed commissions that comprise an equal number of deputies and senators in any constitutional procedure and reform or constitutional reform bills or draft laws that require a special debate and approval system due to their especially complex characteristics or importance."

(12) Article 72 is hereby modified as follows:

a) The phrase between the words "If Congress" and "following special" in Clause 1 is hereby eliminated, and

b) New Clauses 4 and 5 are hereby added:

"Once a treaty has been approved by Congress, the president of the Republic may order, through a supreme decree, its ratification and the exchange and archiving of the corresponding instruments or international procedures, and the promulgation and publication of the mentioned international agreement. This final step will be carried out within a deadline established in Clause 2.

"The president of the Republic will also order a publication certifying that the international procedures mentioned in (5) previous clause have been carried out and the date on which the mentioned international treaty will become nationally effective."

Title II

About the Legitimacy and Efficiency of the Constitutional Justice. **Article 2.** The following amendments to the Chilean Constitution are hereby included:

1) Item No. 2 of Article 32 is hereby eliminated.

2) The phrase "the member" is replaced by "the members" in item No. 14 of Article 32.

3) The following amendments are made to Article 81:

a) Clauses 1 and 2 are replaced by the following:

"Article 81.—A Constitutional Court will comprise seven members who will be designated as follows:

"a. Two attorneys chosen by the Supreme Court in a single, unipersonal, and secret voting session. The two that obtain most votes will be elected.

"b. One attorney chosen by the president of the Republic.

"c. Two attorneys chosen by the Senate in a single, unipersonal, and secret voting session in which all its members will participate. The two candidates that obtain most votes will be elected. If the majority of the total number of senators are absent at the mentioned session, it will be held the following day with whatever number of senators are present.

"d. Two attorneys chosen by the Chamber of Deputies, in a single, unipersonal, and secret voting session in which all its members will participate. The two candidates that obtain most votes will be elected. If the majority of the total number of deputies is not present at the mentioned session, it will be held the following day with whatever number of deputies are present.

"The Court members must have a law degree, at least 15 years legal experience, and must be free of any impediment that disqualifies them from becoming judge. They will be subject to the terms of Articles 55 and 56 and their posts are incompatible with the post of senator, deputy, judicial branch member, or Electoral Court justice."

b) In Clause 3, the phrase "may not be reelected" is hereby added "for the words "four years."

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c) Clause 5 is eliminated.

4) In Item No. 3 of Clause 1 of Article 82, the final words "or issue an unconstitutional decree" are hereby replaced by "issue an unconstitutional decree or fail to promulgate or publish a treaty in the case provided in the final clause of Article 72."

5) The phrase "noting the articles or clauses subject to control," is hereby added to Clause 3 of Article 82 after the words "Constitutional Court."

6) The following final clause is added to Article 82:

"The court will resolve within 30 days any issue submitted for its consideration that does not have a set deadline."

7) The following new Clause 3 is added to Article 83. The current third clause then becomes fourth clause:

"Upon hearing a Constitutional Court ruling that declares an entire or a part draft law unconstitutional, the house that drafted it may establish a mixed commission with an equal number of deputies and senators to change what makes the draft law unconstitutional if feasible. The amendments by the mixed commission will be submitted to the house that proposed the draft law to be approved by it and then by the revision committee for which the quorum established in Article 63 will be necessary. There will be no law if the Mixed Commission fail to reach agreement or if the houses fail to have the necessary quorum to vote the draft law. For its approval, the aforementioned draft bill must follow the procedures established in Articles 70 and 82 of the Constitution as many times as necessary."

Title III

Improvement of the Procedure for a Constitutional Reform: **Article 5.** The following changes are hereby introduced in the Constitution of the Republic:

1) Clause 3 of Article 116 is replaced by the following version:

"Constitutional reforms will be carried out in accordance with the paragraph on the 'Drafting of the Law' in Chapter V."

2) Insert in Article 117, following Clause 6, the following new Clauses 7 and 8 thus making the seventh clause the ninth clause:

"The call for a plebiscite must be made within 30 days of the date the two houses confirm their bill. A supreme decree will fix the date of the plebiscite which cannot be before 30 days or after 60 days of the date the decree was published. If this term expires without the president calling a plebiscite, the bill approved by Congress will be promulgated.

"The decree calling the plebiscite will contain, if appropriate, the bill that was approved by the plenary session of Congress and subsequently completely vetoed by the president or the issues of the bill that were questioned by Congress. In this case, every issue in disagreement must be voted separately in the plebiscite."

3) The following new Article 118 is hereby introduced:

"Article 118. The president of the Republic can consult the people through a plebiscite when a constitutional reform bill submitted by the president is completely rejected by the Congress at any stage of its process in Congress. The call for a plebiscite can be made also if Congress totally or partially rejects observations made whether the bill was presented as a message or as a motion.

"This right, however, cannot be exercised regarding constitutional reforms to change regulations on the plebiscite banned by this article.

"The call for a plebiscite must be made within 30 days after one of the houses or the plenary session of Congress rejects the reform bill or when the Congress rejects the observations. The call will be ordered through a supreme decree that will fix the date of the plebiscite which cannot be held before 30 days or after 60 days from the publication of the decree. If no plebiscite is called within these terms, the bill approved by Congress will be promulgated."

"The decree calling a plebiscite when necessary will include the president of the Republic's draft bill that has been rejected by one house or by the entire Congress, or the issues in dispute which Congress submits to a plebiscite. In the latter case, each issue in dispute should be voted separately during the plebiscite.

"The Electoral Court will inform the president of the Republic on the results of the plebiscite specifying the text of the draft bill approved by the majority of the valid votes that will be promulgated in the form of a constitutional reform within the deadline established by Clause 2 of Article 72. The same procedure will be used should the citizenry reject the president of the Republic's observations. In this case the president of the Republic will promulgate, within the aforementioned deadline, the draft bill approved by Congress in a plenary session.

"The law guarantees that political parties and independent groups which support or reject the draft bill or issues being submitted to a plebiscite will have access to sections of the media. It will determine, according to established limitations, if said publicity will be free of charge."

4) The following new transitory measures are hereby added:

"7th) Senators designated in compliance with the procedures established in Article 45 of the Constitution, will remain in their posts until 11 March 1998."

"8th) The members of the Constitutional Court to which Article 83 of this Constitution refers must be designated within 30 days of the date on which this law is published.

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The first of the justices mentioned in items a), c), and d) of Article 81 will be elected for a four-year term. The other Constitutional Court members will be elected for an eight-year term."

"The Court will be established within the fifth day of the final nomination, when the members of the previous Constitutional Court will end their mandate. For all legal purposes, it is understood that the end of their mandate is revolutionary."

Good Wishes Your Excellency:
Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, President of the Republic
German Correa Diaz, Interior Minister
Genaro Arriagada Herrera, Secretary General of the Presidency of the Republic
Maria Soledad Alvear Valenzuela, Justice Minister

Party Views of Constitutional Reforms Analyzed

PY2108040 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 1 Aug 94 p A-4

[Editorial Report] Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish on 1 August publishes on pages A-4 and A-5 a 1,600-word article by Javier Galaz entitled "Tale of a Mutating Modern" on the background to the constitutional reforms proposed by the government. The report notes that the "political monsters" have kept the document containing the proposed amendments almost secret up until the final phase of consultations with the members of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, which was to begin on 1 August. The Coalition parties have already presented various objections, giving the impression that "the problems are not just cases of management, but are because the governing parties have not succeeded in this phase in connecting up with the strategic guidelines designed in La Moneda," the presidential palace.

The article states that the executive branch has not been the leader in undertaking institutional democratization. Rather, the parties, especially the socialists, have pressed to reopen the debate, while the government has made it clear that it wants to emphasize economic and social issues. The disagreement on the specific content of the amendments is in part due to the jockeying for position within the Coalition.

In addition, the government has been wary not only of actions by the right to block any reforms, but also of the left wing of the Coalition, reportedly fearing that the Socialist Party [PS] and the Party for Democracy [PPD] would support the opposition in its call to strengthen the legislature's oversight powers without demanding any concessions in return. Even though PS President Camilo Escalona has said that the socialists would vote against "any partial ratification of reforms that would mean a 'made-to-measure' suit for the right," the Christian Democrats have insisted that the oversight issue be dealt with separately after the proposals of the Public Ethics Commission have become law. The position of the PPD seems to leave the door open to reforms that would "disturb" the Armed Forces, which the executive branch wishes to avoid.

The article goes on to state that other factors that would affect the original proposal are that Gabriel Valdes and Jorge Schaulsohn—presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, respectively—have demanded publicly that the reforms be aimed at restoring the balance between the executive and legislative branches in proposing laws, in what "could be described as the corporate thinking" of legislators that transcends party affiliation. Congressional leaders have said they will not limit themselves to passive consideration of the reforms but will try to restore congressional participation in determining legislative priorities, currently the prerogative of the executive branch.

The opposition parties have rejected almost all the proposed amendments. According to Galaz, the Independent Democratic Union and the Progressive Center-Center Union seem to have some differences with the National Renewal Party, especially with regard to the binomial electoral system, but "there are no clear indications that these two groups would risk the right's apparent unity and their commitment to act in coordination in exchange for greater electoral autonomy."

The reform package is said not to include the direct election of mayors, the point of greatest agreement, "at least verbally," between the government and opposition. It will include electoral issues, the elimination of appointed senators, changes in the composition of the Constitutional Court, and presidential powers to call a plebiscite on modifications to the constitution. However, the latter has been limited in order to avoid any reference to citizen initiatives through the collection of signatures.

The article closes by saying that the intentions expressed by the different actors in this process indicate that many of the reforms "will be subjected to various modifications which will reveal the intersection of the political conflicts and the specific interests of the legislators themselves," in a complex process.

Colombia

Defense Minister Makes Respect for Human Rights 'Priority'

PA1108130494 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 7A Aug 94 p 9A

[Unattributed article]

[Text] Defense Minister Fernando Botero Zea said yesterday—after the publication of an annual report issued by the Ombudsman Office—that although the number of people whose human rights were violated by state agents decreased 36 percent between 1992 and 1993, such abuses have "very negative consequences for Colombia and the military forces because their credibility is undermined."

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Botero said he is "concerned" and "displeased with performance" in this area. The high-ranking official gave examples of the harmful effects of this kind of official violence, citing "the fact that many exchange projects have been affected (Germany denied visas to ranking officers who were going to attend military courses), and that country suspended the sale to Colombia of spare parts for certain rifles (G-3's) and Black Hawk helicopters."

Botero Zea read a communique in which he emphasized that he and President Ernesto Samper have made respect for human rights a "priority." Samper will launch a special plan on this issue on 7 September. Botero Zea added that his ministry will establish a nationwide network of human rights offices—each garrison should house one—whose main task will be to decrease violations of basic rights by the Armed Forces and security organizations through the processing and investigation of charges made by citizens throughout the country. Political expert Pilar Gaitan will head this project. She will take office as Defense Ministry human rights spokeswoman on 1 September.

The communique issued by Botero Zea stated, however, that since the Ombudsman's Office has not yet officially presented its human rights report, he will wait to make further comments. He insisted that these violations "do not reflect the policy of the institution, of the Colombian state in general, or of the Colombian Defense Ministry in particular." "We will not hesitate to implement a clear, vigorous policy in defense of human rights at the moment," he pointed out.

He added that this "coherent and clear program" will be combined with a reform of the Military Penal Justice Code to make it more efficient, with Congress' approval of the Second Geneva Protocol for the defense of basic rights in the war that is affecting the country, and with an extensive training program for officers, noncommissioned officers, soldiers, and policemen "in developing a broad and profound awareness of this issue." Today the army launched the Human Rights Card, a sort of decalogue that all men in uniform will be required to "carry and comply with."

Documents Link Politicians, Traffickers

Contents Discussed

PA1 0016A Santa Fe de Bogota CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 1 Aug 94 pp 28-32

[Text] Officers whispered to each other. Everyone opened their eyes in surprise. On Thursday 14 July at CTI members of the Special Joint Task Force of DAS—known as the Cali Search Block—reported to their commanders about finding this "key" document. After more than five hours of combing through documents and piecing together scraps of paper that had been torn up and thrown in wastebaskets, the group that had raided the offices of the Exposal company found an alleged "payment order" naming a list of people headed by former Liberal Senator Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento. The document also contains the names of former Comptroller Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia and former President of the Chamber of Representatives Norberto Morales Bustamante. At the bottom of the order is the notation "to courtesy copy to Mr. Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela."

According to the CTI, Exposal's legal representative, Julian Marcelo Posada, is a front man for the Cali Cartel. "Charges have been filed against him in Panama as a result of the seizure of a shipment of cocaine," said an investigator for the block. "And how did they end up in Exposal?" During the raid on the office of Guillermo Pallomari, alias "Kragan," a Chilean who has been living in Colombia for the past 12 years (and who has been chief of security for the Rodriguez Orejuela family), according to the CTI, documents "compromising" [text] were found.

As reported in CAMBIO 16 of 18 July, Pallomari (45, with alien ID number 139864, issued in Bogota) took care of payrolls for the cartel's collaborators. A source that was present at the raid on 14 Avenida 4N) said that after "hot" documents were found in his possession, "Kragan" explained, "I was hired by Miguel Rodriguez to be his financial and accounting adviser. Don Miguel sends me the payrolls, and I process them and then are paid."

He was referring, among other things, to the controversial list of police officers (part of which was revealed last week) found in "Kragan's" briefcase along with six checks. One of the checks had the name of the businessman who firm on it. One of the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers is listed as a board member of that company's records. Another check was for Inversiones Agricolas El Diamante. The list of police officers that was found is much more extensive than the director of the police, Gen. Octavio Vargas Silva, has admitted. CAMBIO 16 has learned that it includes one lieutenant colonel (Julio Cesar Rodriguez, operations commander of the Cali Police), four majors, 10 captains, 14 petty officers, and 60 agents, as well as two secretaries of high-ranking police officers. According to CTI sources, one of the officers who were paid the highest "salaries or perks" (more than a million pesos) is an executive officer of the SIJIN, the judicial investigative police of Cali, in the name of Galindo Parra. Two other officers and three petty officers of the SIJIN have been suspended.

But that is not the only list found in Pallomari's briefcase. He had another document titled "Special Groups" that lists four officers and 13 petty officers (many with the rank of major (as published)) mostly from the Army. The officers were paid between 500,000 and 1 million pesos per month. They were also apparently given bonuses for "special" jobs. At the time of the raid, retired Army Maj. Edwin Crespo was present in "Kragan's" office. "When you are retired, you will have to look for work, too," he told the policemen, according to the CTI. Pallomari has been a trusted aide of the

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Rodriguez Orejuela family for 15 years. "At one time he ran operational security, at another time, administrative security. And now he was approving the payment of checks."

In the CEC's view, the cartel's networks of "friends" are so complex that they seem like a underworld. During a raid on the Migil company (which coincides with the initials of Miguel and Gilberto), a will of Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela was found, and the new senator for Valle, Armando Holguin, is listed in the document as a witness. "The will assigns percentages of his property, and it includes those women and their respective children." What does Holguin have to say about the matter? "I was a witness for that will, but not for the execution of it, and that was about 10 or 15 years ago...." Holguin acknowledged that he has known Rodriguez Orejuela for many years. But that is not the only link the CEC has found between Holguin and the alleged kingpin. During a raid last 22 February, a list of 44 guests invited to Rodriguez Orejuela's youngest son's 18 February wedding was found. CEC analysts contend that it is written in Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela's handwriting, and it contains the names of prominent individuals such as Juan Jose Bellini (president of the Colombian Soccer Federation) and "Armando Holguin, wife and children." In that regard, Holguin commented, "I never got any invitation.... But what is the problem, if it is the wedding of a young man who does not have any problems with the law?" Now Holguin is vice chairman of the Second Committee of the Senate. According to a legal expert, this committee is in charge of deciding whether to ratify international treaties (including those involved in the drug war), approving proposed promotions of generals in the republic, and studying national security matters. Holguin clarified that he did not ask to be assigned to the Second Committee: "I wanted to be on the First Committee, but since there was not a vacancy at that time, they put me in the second one." He stated that he has already requested to be assigned to the Fourth or Fifth Committee.

Are there more politicians involved? A confidential document of the so-called Search Block indicates that in the parking space corresponding to Apartment 603 in the La Loma Building, or at 21-19 Avenida 9A N (described as a hideaway of Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela and beauty queen Martha Echeverry), authorities found a gray BMW, license number PLL-773, registered in the name of Tello Dominguez. Who is he? He is a new member of the Chamber of Representatives, formerly a deputy to the Valle Assembly. CAMBIO 16 tried to find him, but no one answered his telephone.

Regarding the presence of his name on the "payment order," a copy of which was to be sent to Miguel Rodriguez, former Liberal Congressman Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento stated: "I have known Miguel Rodriguez for some time, and that is nothing new. But I have not had anything to do with him for many years." Mestre, who was a member of the national directorate of the Liberal Party during the Barco Administration, added: "I find that document very strange. It is preposterous... You should ask the block what it is all about." Mestre Sarmiento has already been embroiled in other controversies. According to an article in the daily EL ESPECTADOR, published in September 1988, he was a middleman for Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela in the purchase of the Workers Bank and the Bavaria Finance Corporation. Mestre was also mentioned in the famous "narcocassettes." Despite numerous phone calls to their residences, CAMBIO 16 was unable to contact former Comptroller Gonzalez Garcia or politician Morales Bastidas.

Meanwhile, the debate on the influence of drug trafficking on Colombian politics still rages. In the latest edition of TIME magazine, there is an article that discusses whether Colombia can be classified as a "narco-democracy." Newly elected President Ernesto Samper Pizano told this magazine that the drug traffickers may have five or six congressmen on their payroll, but it makes no sense to infer that Colombia is a narco-democracy. A spokesman for the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] in Bogota contradicts the president, however, claiming that "between 50 and 75 percent of the (Colombian) Congress is influenced one way or another by the Cali Cartel."

While the controversy continues, so do the raids, and the Prosecutor's Office is opening up more and more investigations into alleged illicit gains and front men. The director of the Technical Investigation Corps of Cali stated that there are about 14 investigations going on in her office right now. According to the CEC, "The Prosecutor's Office opened a preliminary investigation on former beauty queen Martha Lucia Echeverry for allegedly receiving illicit gains and being a front woman. It was prompted by the discovery of a vanity case belonging to Mrs. Echeverry containing 15 pieces of jewelry (watches, necklaces, earrings)."

Another raid that led to judicial investigations took place last 8 March. At that time, according to the CEC, "the house at 43 Calle Pila Rica, on the road to Pance, was searched. The house is owned by a woman whose first husband was Luis Enrique Ochoa Tobon, who is currently serving time in Viterbo Prison in Italy for drug trafficking offenses." Two 9 mm. Pietro Beretta pistols, five 9 mm. clips, 15 shotguns of various gauges, 11,200 rounds for shotguns of various gauges, and two communication radios were seized in that raid.

On 23 March 1994, the CEC conducted another raid on the fourth floor of the Via Veneto Building at 5A-75 Calle 22 N, where the Constructora Rioma e Inversiones Maquilon y Maquilon company is located. As a result of that operation, the Regional Prosecutor's Office of Cali opened an investigation for illicit gains and/or fronting. Similar investigations were opened in the wake of raids on companies such as Inversiones Rodriguez Arbelaez y Cia. S.C.S., Inversiones Miguel Rodriguez e hijo, and

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Inversiones Rodriguez Moreno y Cia., located at 23DN-16 Avenida 6N, Suite 402, and Inversiones Rodriguez y Rodriguez S. en C.S., located at 38A-02 Calle 5.

The number of clues linking the Rodriguez Orejuela family to a pharmaceutical company is growing. CAMBIO 16 has learned that on 18 June a raid was conducted at Avenida del Lago and Calle Cocli, house number 19, in the Ciudad Jardin 17 district.

According to a CTI document, "Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela lived there. A copy of the Alfa Project of Laboratorios Kressfor S.A. for 1994 was found there. This laboratory produces medications for La Rebaja drugs. A copy of the Alfa Project was sent with a memo, dated 3 June 1994, to Dr. M.R.O. (Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela) in his capacity as member of the board of directors of Laboratorios Kressfor de Colombia S.A."

The CTI emphasizes that the kingpins have consolidated their power over a period of 20 years and that these organizations cannot be expected to disappear overnight. Their technological capacity became apparent when the CORS Building (9N-46 Calle 18N, Apartment 101) was raided on 18 May. "Don Chepe" Santacruz's computer and communication monitoring center was seized in that raid. "They were monitoring the communications of the Metropolitan Police of Cali, the Valle Police, the air base, the Third Brigade, and the airport." According to state security sources, the Cali Airport Police have also been setting up an intelligence network to support the Rodriguez Orejuelas.

The CTI has determined that 12 strategic Immediate Action Centers (CAI) in Cali have been at the disposal of the cartel. In addition to this "official" security network, they have had the private security company Hercules at their service. The aforementioned Palkomari and two of Rodriguez Orejuela's sons are on the board of directors of that company. "Thus, they had the run of Cali as if they were in their own homes. But their home is becoming increasingly uncomfortable," said a high-ranking CTI official.

Links to Cartel Denied

94CE10503R Santa Fe de Bogota CAMBIO 16 in Spanish 15 Aug 94 p 12

[Text] In issue No. 61, CAMBIO 16 reported that on 14 July members of the CTI [Special Joint Command] found in the Exposal company an alleged "payment order" containing a list in which appear the names of Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento, Rodolfo Gonzalez Garcia, and Norberto Morales Ballesteros. There is also a footnote copy to Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela. The Prosecutor's Office released a statement saying that it had not received "from any police official or from the CTI documents listing Gonzalez Garcia, Manuel Francisco Becerra (who was not mentioned by this magazine) and Morales Ballesteros." No mention was made of Mestre Sarmiento.

Former member of Congress Morales Ballesteros sent a letter stating, "Considering the statement of the Prosecutor's Office, clarifications of this publication's report should be made." He insists that "he has never had dealings of any sort with persons or groups on the fringes of the law." Mestre released a "Citizen's Statement" in which he notes that he finds it absurd that he should be linked with Gonzalez and Morales, with whom "he has had no contact for over four years, except in a very occasional form."

The former member of Congress adds that in his private life, he has no power at all. "It makes no sense," he insists, "to try to portray me as the advocate of persons with problems with the law or interested in having political power which I do not have or information that I do not possess." CAMBIO 16 never mentioned that. Mestre adds that he has given "legal authorization to Francisco Zuleta to initiate appropriate actions with the judicial authorities, so that the Defense Ministry will accept its constitutional and legal responsibilities and will keep more citizens from being damaged by the strange practice of anonymously leaking papers containing allegations from government officers to the media."

Former Comptroller Gonzalez Garcia also sent a letter in which he referred to the Prosecutor's Office statement. "With all due respect, but also with all the sorrow of my wounded honor, I demand a correction of this report, in order to repair at least in part the grave and premeditated outrage to which I have been subjected." Referring to journalist Alberto Donadio, Gonzalez says that "his colleagues (at CAMBIO 16) decided to revive past disputes and did not waste such an excellent opportunity to stain my life with the weapon of infamy." Donadio answered, "Gonzalez responds to the report by accusing me of being the author of the article, as if writing were grounds for indictment. I did not write that report, and he can impute no political conspiracy to me, for I am a journalist and not a politician. But it is an old tactic to try to distract attention in this way." He also asks Gonzalez, "If the article is not mine, then are its contents automatically true?"

CAMBIO 16 learned that the Army had found the document in question because two journalists from this magazine had an opportunity to read it when they were doing a report on the CTI at the time of the raid of Exposal. A high level CTI officer confirmed that this document was found in Exposal and was turned over to the Regional Prosecutor's Office. An authorized source of the Cali Regional Prosecutor's Division has confirmed that they did receive this document. Then why the statement by the Prosecutor General's Office denying it? "Because it was unsaid," says the source. "In the Bogota office while the document was en route. When they issued the statement, the Prosecutor General's Office did not know the document existed.... In the Prosecutor General's Office they handle cases containing 1,000 and 4,000 pages...." The source added that the

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document is now in the Office of the Prosecutor General in Bogota. A Defense Ministry source said that "you have the same version as the document in the Prosecutor General's Office."

Objections Raised on SEMANA Report on Links to Company

[AB] [927] "Letter From Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela to the Editor of SEMANA Magazine"

[Text] Issue No. 339 of SEMANA magazine on page 72, under the title "26-Story Laundry," contains a report in which we are directly linked to Cali Hoteles S.A., in an attempt to implicate us in the newspaper's alleged misdeeds.

Nothing could be more false, and deliberately so, than the account. The reality is quite different, and can be explained in two paragraphs.

Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela owns 10,000 shares which cost 1 million pesos; this represents a minute part of the 1,500,000 shares issued and sold by Cali Hoteles S.A. In addition, he is the owner of an apartment purchased in 1987 which was paid for in 12 monthly installments with the appropriate interest charges. Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela does not own and never owned a single share in this company. The only thing true in this article is that he does own an apartment bought in 1987, paid for in 12 monthly installments.

All this can obviously be verified by checking the records of Cali Hoteles S.A. Nevertheless, we are attaching the appropriate certificates.

In one paragraph of the article it states: "Another surprise was the listing of Eduardo Cid, the nephew of the Rodriguez Orejuelas, as one of the top directors. "We are surprised by the mention of this relationship. Eduardo Cid does not have and never had any family connection or kind of friendship with us, nor is he our representative in this company.

The allusion the magazine always makes to the top leaders of the Cali Cartel, Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, "owners of cash and libertad, without evidence to support the constant linkage of our names to whatever crime may appear, which may be manipulated by the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration]."

Let us remind you with all due respect that neither of us has been convicted of any crime either in Colombia or in any country of the world. We have borne with dignity, decorum, and respect the justice the legal proceedings that have been initiated and pursued against us. However, we are not willing to allow ourselves to be identified as leaders or members of the so-called Cali Cartel.

Very respectfully, we wish to repeat to you—as we have done on other occasions—that the publication of facts distorting the truth constitutes libel, a crime listed in and punishable by the Colombian Criminal Procedures Code, and that such repeated and accusatory reports create undue pressures on public opinion, and even on the judicial system itself.

Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela, Cali

Editor's Note

The very strong indications of hot money connections in the Cali Hoteles company have been publicly confirmed in recent days by directors of the project and by security organizations. The Office of the Prosecutor General of Colombia is conducting a full investigation of these connections. As to the shares of Messrs. Gilberto and Miguel Rodriguez Orejuela which they mention in this letter, they are precisely as SEMANA reported in the article "26-Story Laundry."

Cartel Tactics, Anti-Cartel Strategy Viewed

[AB] [931492] "Letter To the Reader [SEMANA in Spanish 19 Sep 94 pp 12-14]"

[Text] For the new minister of defense, Fernando Botero Zea, his first week in office proved rather busy. There was the guerrilla offensive, the Colonel Velasquez case, and the assassination of Manuel Cepeda, among many other matters. But due to its implications and the urgent need to make changes, the police crisis in the department of Valle del Cauca was the issue on which he spent more time than on any other. As the revelations of recent weeks have shown, it has become one of the worst tangles of problems in memory.

But Botero and the members of the high command, who held a number of meetings during the course of the week to analyze the problem, were not content just to review the cases reported and to impose penalties. They chose to go further, evaluating the very strategies that have been used to combat the activities of the drug traffickers, in the department of Valle del Cauca in particular.

They came to the conclusion that in the last few years, the heads of the cocaine cartel have refined their tactics by consolidating an apparatus for gathering intelligence, resorting to corruption and violence, and even manipulating their image, to an extent that requires a restructuring of the responses provided thus far by the state. "The idea is that of our opponent is the chess player," a highly placed official told SEMANA, referring to Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela's best-known alias. "What we must do is find the best way of checkmating him."

A Sophisticated Cartel

For some time now, the intelligence leaders have been increasingly convinced that the great strength of the cartel, which the DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] says is headed by the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers, Jose Santacruz, and Pacho Herrera, is its high level of

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sophistication. "While the police and the Armed Forces have only begun in the past five or six years to establish anti-narcotics intelligence networks," a source high in the government explained to SEMANA, "the cartel has been creating intelligence networks, infiltrating the Congress, establishing a support network of bank employees, etc., for almost two decades."

The truth is that the authorities can see with increasing clarity that these individuals have pushed what is called in the leftist combatants' sector "the combination of various forms of struggle" to new limits. The history of the cartel reveals a combination of intimidation through the use of violence, the most polished sort of public relations activities, including the use of beauty queens and soccer teams, bribery and corruption, infiltration of the legislative branch, the police, the DAS [Administrative Department of Security], the Armed Forces, and the court system, organization of a juridical team with the finest of skills, and consolidation of an unprecedented network of support in the banking sector.

To all of this, a new strategy of discrediting the authorities and using moral terrorism against their opponents has been added. The Colonel Velasquez case is one of the best-publicized instances, but not by any means the only one. The Ministry of Defense is persuaded that the cartel has even gone so far as to promote the searches that have produced the volumes of documentary information that have occasionally implicated honest individuals. They may have waged a valiant battle against the criminal leaders, but in the end their reputations are sullied on the basis of alleged records of bribes and payment orders. On this basis, both intelligence personnel and the prosecutor general of the nation have chosen to accept for review a good portion of the evidence collected in the course of some of these searches.

Very obviously, not all of the searches resulted from previous arrangements made by the cartel, nor is all of the information obtained false. However, although relatively few searches were instigated by the cartel, they have caused such concern that the authorities have been forced to take a permanently mistrustful view of the information obtained in the course of this kind of operation.

"The intent to defame certain individuals is so obvious," a highly placed official at the Ministry of Defense stated on Friday. "But we have evidence of instances in which the drug traffickers have ordered individuals in their employ to make sizable deposits to bank accounts in Colombia and abroad in the name of honest individuals, who only learn of these deposits months later. Then the criminal leaders use the documents attesting to the deposits to blackmail the holders of the accounts, who are generally individuals from whom they need favors."

In addition, the heads of the Cali cartel have for some time now shown great ability in developing an image-making strategy and seeking nationalist and pacifist support. This could be seen in the anger created against the United States by episodes like that involving the soldiers in Juanchaco, or the solidarity they have managed to develop against what some are calling the new drug war," this same source added. He also recalled how the heads of this cartel have succeeded in peddling an image of themselves as nonviolent drug traffickers who therefore merit special treatment.

The Official Response

The first task facing the new minister of defense was the continuation of the work of cleaning up the police force begun in recent months by his predecessor, Rafael Pardo. The level of corruption in bodies like the Valle police is so high that President Ernesto Samper himself said at a meeting of high government officials a few days ago: "The truth is that we have moved from narcoterrorism to narcocorruption."

A first element in the new government strategy revealed by Minister Botero at a press conference last Saturday is completion of the cleanup process. Botero told journalists that the dismissal of 56 police officers, 18 subofficers, and four agents has been announced in recent days. In addition, all of the personnel in the Vigo units and the Valle Airport Police were relieved of their duties. "There is no precedent at all in the 100-year history of the police force for such harsh and speedy action," Botero explained. "It suffices to note that about 50 percent of the police officers in Cali have been penalized."

The minister presented the plan drafted with the collaboration of the commander of the police force, General Octavio Vargas Silva, and other commanders, which is based on three essential points. The first pertains to the system of penalties, which can be imposed more swiftly thanks to the declaration of a disciplinary emergency for a period of 60 days in Valle. A temporary team made up of representatives of the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Police Commissioner, the Office of the Prosecutor General, and the police force itself will work on the completion of the investigations of corruption and infiltration.

"The idea on appointing this team," Botero explained to SEMANA, "is to make it possible to determine which are the real cases of corruption, thereby preventing an indiscriminate witch hunt that could not in any way contribute to correcting the situation. This is because it would only serve to classify the truly corrupt individuals together with those same honest people the cartel itself has sought to besmirch and discredit."

But since not everything can be achieved with the stick, there will be a carrot as well. There will be improvement in wage conditions, special incentives for those who render outstanding service, assignments for specialized training abroad, scholarships, family vacation trips, monetary rewards, new government housing, and credit availabilities so that police personnel and their families can purchase goods and services.

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The third and final pillar of the plan is a prevention program. It will include, among other measures, the establishment of a secret body to combat corruption in Valle del Cauca, in much the same way as the departments of internal affairs function in police departments in the United States.

It can be seen what the authorities are seeking to do is to start combating a problem that has already grown to catastrophic proportions. The resistance to the plan proposed by the new minister of defense that might be criticized is that it will lessen the police force. It is obvious that the control of the cartel's penetration of government bodies is not restricted to the uniformed personnel. The Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Prosecutor General, and other bodies should develop plans for action similar to that to be developed by the Ministry of Defense. If they do not participate, the Gaviria-Samper battle against the criminal hydra, pen by pen, may be lost before it begins.

Paraguay

Police Chief Confirms Warning on Presence of 'Terrorists'

FL2108184294 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 21 Aug 94 pp 10, 11

[Text] Yesterday, we received a message from a friendly police organization warning us on the possible entry into the country of presumed Arab terrorists. They are supposed to have entered the country on 17 August. We have established contacts at airports, custom officers, even in Ciudad del Este, but we have not been able to find any Arab with the characteristics mentioned in the report," said Principal Superintendent Enrique Martinetti, head of the intelligence department and the person in charge of the investigation.

Martinetti said that all police control posts have been reinforced and fingerprints of the alleged terrorists have been disseminated, but the alleged terrorists have not been located.

The police chief did not rule out the possibility that the individuals entered the country with different false documents. "It is easy for criminal organizations to obtain false documents, not only in our country, but in any other place in the world," Martinetti emphasized.

He gave indications that the red alert situation continues in the Tourism Police. "Our investigation continues. We have started our operations, Uruguayan and Brazilian colleagues about the situation. We cannot rule out the possibility that the terrorists dropped the plan mentioned in the message from the other continent," Martinetti said.

The intelligence chief noted that the information they had said that unofficial reports indicated terrorists were allegedly preparing another criminal bomb attack against the Jewish community in Buenos Aires similar to the attack on the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association. Arab religious fundamentalists were supposed to arrive in Asuncion from Spain and then travel to Ciudad del Este, where they were supposed to receive explosives and then transport them to Buenos Aires. The attack is allegedly scheduled for 1 September.

The alleged terrorists were reportedly using names such as Hashem Abbwud, Ali Salim, and Hassan Shihadah.

Nino Trinidad Ruiz, head of the Paraguayan branch of Interpol, said no other local Interpol branch had any information on the Arabs, adding that these people could be carrying false documents and could even be using common Latin American names.

Suriname

Police Denies 'Violent Actions' by Jungle Commando

HR1108142794 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 11 Aug p 7

[Report by Linda Oliet: "Police Denies Violent Actions by Former Commando"]

[Excerpt] The Surinamese police have denied that former Jungle Commando fighters have been launching violent actions in east Suriname. Since the arrest of rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk, there are rumors that ex-fighters are organizing operations to obtain his release.

On Monday evening [29 August], it was said that the former Commando had taken the police station of Moengo. In Paramaribo telephone and radio contacts with Moengo had been interrupted, adding credibility to the rumors.

On Tuesday, the police said that the police station was operating normally.

The rumors that an armed group had crossed the border between French Guiana and east Suriname did not even talk. A police officer in Paramaribo said he did not know where the rumors began. "It is obvious that people are trying to destabilize the situation in Suriname." [passage omitted]

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